

Saudi minister begins Maghreb tour

ALGIERS (R) — Saudi Arabian Defence Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz arrived Tuesday on a six-day official visit to the Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. The official Algerian Press Agency (APS) gave no other details of the visit, to be followed by a four-day official trip to neighbouring Morocco starting Monday. But diplomats match up Moroccan-Algerian differences over the Western Sahara. There have been high-level exchanges between Morocco and King Hassan II of Morocco together at a border meeting in Morocco to talk about restoring diplomatic ties. Rabat severed ties with Algeria for backing Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence of the former Spanish territory of Western Sahara. A senior Saudi military delegation led by Major General Sulaiman Shabib, deputy commander of the Saudi Naval Forces, is currently visiting Algeria. Gen. Shabib discussed prospects of cooperation with General Mustapha Cheloufi, secretary general of the Algerian Defence Ministry, the APS said.

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UNIFIL soldier killed in ambush

TYRE (AP) — A United Nations soldier was killed and three others were wounded Tuesday when unidentified attackers fired at their jeep in an ambush in South Lebanon, a U.N. spokesman said. Tahir Goksel, spokesman of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said the four, all Lebanese, were ambushed at 3:15 p.m. by unknown gunmen as they drove on the main road in Kafra, 12 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

Gorbachev proposes U.N. summit on disarmament

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev proposed Tuesday that leaders of the 15 nations on the U.N. Security Council meet to discuss how money saved from disarmament could be spent on economic development. Mr. Gorbachev made the suggestion in a message read by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir F. Petrov at the 140-nation international conference on the relationship between disarmament and development. "It would be useful to discuss in principle the problems of disarmament and development at a special meeting of top leaders of member states of the U.N. Security Council," Mr. Gorbachev said in the message.

Turkey holds 94 Iranian soldiers

ANKARA (R) — Security officials on Tuesday interrogated 94 Iranian Revolutionary guards captured after they entered Turkey in an effort to reach Iraq, a local official said. The group entered Turkey on Sunday and were soon captured by the Turkish army, said Macit Dalkilic, deputy governor of Hakkari province. He was quoted by the semi-official Anatolian news agency. Turkish dailies said the group apparently intended to sabotage an Iraqi oil export pipeline where it crosses the border into Turkey.

Bonn drops warrant against Syrian

BONN (AP) — West Germany has dropped an arrest warrant for a high-ranking Syrian intelligence officer who a West Berlin court ruled was involved in a guerrilla attack in the city, government sources said Tuesday. The sources said the warrant for Hisham Saad was dropped earlier this month for political reasons. "It was a political, not a legal, decision," said one government source. "It has been decided that relations with Syria are to be improved," the source added in a telephone interview.

Hess may yet be buried in family grave

WUNSIEDEL, West Germany (R) — The body of Hitler's former deputy Rudolf Hess, buried in a secret location to prevent neo-Nazi demonstrations, will eventually be transferred to the family grave in Wunsiedel, Hess' family lawyer Alfred Seidl said Tuesday. The family announced on Monday they had buried Hess in a secret grave to stop his funeral, originally planned for Wednesday in this Bavarian town, from becoming a rally for right-wing extremists.

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Arab League gives Iran until Sept. 20 to accept ceasefire

Tunis statement urges Security Council to adopt urgent measures to ensure Tehran's adherence to Resolution 598
Communique condemns Iranians over Mecca riots, voices solidarity with Iraq and supports Kuwaiti moves to defend its security and integrity

TUNIS (Agencies) — Arab League foreign ministers decided Tuesday to give Iran until Sept. 20 to accept a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war or face a reexamination of the Arab countries' relations with Tehran.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi said after the decision by the League's Ministerial Council that the breaking of diplomatic relations between Iran and the Arab countries could not be excluded if Tehran does not respond to peace efforts.

"The Arab states preferred to put this question off until later to give Iran a chance," Mr. Klibi told reporters. "But if Tehran refuses to submit to the will of the

international community, we would find ourselves obliged to revise our relations with Iran."

We noted that the Sept. 20 date coincides with the opening session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will have completed his discussions with the Iranians by then, Mr. Klibi said.

On July 20, the Security Council approved a resolution calling

for an immediate ceasefire in the seven-year-old Gulf war and sanctions on any party that did not abide by it. Iraq has accepted the resolution, Iran has neither accepted or rejected it, but has said it does not like because it does not name Iraq as the "aggressor."

The Arab League ministers began their meeting on Sunday to forge a unified Arab position on the Gulf war. But the session dragged out over three days because of disagreement over the wording of the final document.

At his news conference after the meeting, Mr. Klibi said the decision on breaking relations with Iran was postponed "so that we will not be accused of precipitation, to give Iran time to

reflect, and allow the U.N. secretary general to apply the (Security Council) resolution."

Conference sources said Saudi Arabia had deliberately adopted a hard line against Iran at the beginning of the meeting, proposing that the Arabs break ties with Tehran, in order to get the support of countries like Libya and Syria for a milder resolution.

The final text handed to the press "energetically condemns acts of destruction and disorders provoked by the Iranians" on July 31 during the pilgrimage to Mecca when more than 400 pilgrims died in violent clashes.

It also "denounces the destructive policy towards and threats to the internal security of Arab

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Iraqi envoy says lull in Gulf 'tanker war' is only temporary

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Iraq's ambassador to the United States has warned that attacks on Iranian oil shipments in the Gulf might be resumed if there is no progress in U.N. efforts to end the seven-year-old war between the two countries.

Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun gave the warning in a farewell interview on Monday with AP at the Iraqi embassy. Meantime, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar sought Iran's approval in New York of a ceasefire ordered July 20 by the Security Council.

"This is very limited matter, a very temporary matter," Mr. Hamdoun said of the moratorium Iraq imposed on itself last month while U.N. diplomats worked for approval of the U.N. resolution.

"Iraq has never given its promise to anybody," Mr. Hamdoun said. "Iraq has never given up its right to hit and attack the Iranian ships that are bound for Iranian ports."

The ambassador will become Iraq's deputy foreign minister after he returns to Baghdad in 10 days.

"As long as we don't see a serious effort to squeeze Iran on the Security Council level, Iraq would feel free to bit in those waters," Mr. Hamdoun said.

"And I think most of the parties understand the Iraqi position," Iraq began the so-called "tank-

er war" in the spring of 1983. Iran's only means of transporting its oil is through the Gulf, while Iraq uses pipelines through Saudi Arabia and Turkey as well as Gulf shipping.

Under Iraqi fire, Iran's oil exports dropped dramatically a year ago to about 500,000 barrels a day. Since the moratorium they have rebounded to more than 2 million barrels a day.

Mr. Hamdoun said the war would end if Iran were deprived of weapons and the money to buy them.

The ambassador and the State Department indicated separately that Mr. Perez de Cuellar's meetings Monday and Tuesday with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Jawad Larjani could be pivotal.

"It's now about time to take a decision," Mr. Hamdoun said.

Phyllis Oakley, a State Department spokeswoman, said "if Iran continues to stall, the Security Council must move ahead with enforcement measures."

But she said there was still hope Iran would comply with the ceasefire because "this clearly would be a sensible thing to do."

Iraq readily accepted the resolution, while Iran has hedged about its position.

After the first high level talks between Iranian officials and the U.N. secretary general since the Security Council's call for a ceasefire, Iran's public statements in-

dicated that the United Nations has been unable to start any peace initiative in the Gulf far.

At a press conference after his meeting with Mr. Perez de Cuellar on Monday, Mr. Larjani continued to voice his objections to the Security Council's call for a ceasefire, but he stopped short of rejecting the resolution outright.

"It is not a matter of refusal to obey or not," he said. "The problem is: What concrete, practical, meaningful steps we can take toward peace and security in the region. It is not a problem of take it or leave it. It is a problem of reaching a meaningful end."

Mr. Larjani told a news conference his government still had complaints about the Security Council resolution but was willing to pursue negotiations with Mr. Perez de Cuellar.

In Abu Dhabi, an Iranian envoy on Tuesday dismissed the impact of a possible United Nations arms embargo as "trivial" and ruled out high-level talks with the United States.

Iran's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Mustafa Haeri, also said in an interview that the Strait of Hormuz, outlet of the Gulf, could be blocked by sinking two ships in its channels.

"Iran has started mass production of its own arms industry," said the ambassador in Abu Dhabi.

Reports conflict over new convoy in Gulf

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — High winds and flying desert sand in the southern Gulf on Tuesday added to uncertainty over the next convoy of Kuwaiti tankers, a day after four ships completed a voyage marked by confrontations between their U.S. navy escorts and other vessels.

Although some reports claimed the convoy was already en route up the Gulf, Kuwaiti officials denied that, and other sources said only that two of the ships destined for the trip were anchored outside the Strait of Hormuz.

The third was en route from Europe and still several days away, its owners said in London. Gulf-based shipping sources who on Monday had reported the convoy as having cleared the Strait of Hormuz into the Gulf, said they had no new information because bad weather was sharply limiting any direct observations.

"Whether we have a new convoy moving or not, and with the weather as it is, it is all helping the U.S. navy spread confusion which is the way it now wants the escort operations to continue," said a Dubai-based shipping executive quoted by AP.

Reuters said in a dispatch from Abu Dhabi that bad weather blocked the new U.S. navy convoy from entering the Gulf en route to Kuwait.

They said winds gusting to 25 knots and laden with sand from the Arabian desert cut visibility over the Strait of Hormuz and the southern Gulf, preventing two reflagged Kuwaiti tankers and their escorts from entering the waterway.

The two tankers, the 81,283-tonne Surf City and the 79,999-tonne Chesapeake City, had been due to pass through the Strait of Hormuz early Tuesday but the convoy commander apparently postponed departure because of bad visibility, the sources said.

Officials of the Kuwait Oil Co., which operates the tankers, denied they had any new convoys under way, and the navy refused comment on the movements of its warships.

Three tankers — the last of 11 destined to be re-registered under the American flag — are expected to join the next convoy, said the London office of KOTC, said Tuesday that one of those, the 290,085-tonne supertanker Middleton, was "still at sea" after leaving Rotterdam on Aug. 21.

Four other tankers were en route to various destinations after exiting the Gulf on Monday, completing the second down-bound convoy and the fifth overall since the U.S. reflagging plan began July 20.

Saudi Arabia issues clear and sharp warning to Iran

Prince Nayef takes toughest-ever Saudi stand and says kingdom is ready to meet any Iranian aggression

JEDDAH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia declared Tuesday it would get tough with Iran, warning that its forces would "strike firmly and decisively" at Iranian attempts to undermine its security.

Interior Minister Prince Nayef, addressing a news conference, denounced the Iranian regime as a "group of terrorists" but stressed that Saudi Arabia would not "reciprocate terror with terror."

The Saudi minister warned that King Fahd's government would not hesitate to shoot down any Iranian plane that might attack the kingdom's eastern province, site of the world's largest oil fields.

Prince Nayef spoke hours after a senior Iranian cleric, Mahdi Karubi, warned that Iran would go on staging political rallies during pilgrimages to the Holy City of Mecca despite a ban (see page 2).

Hundreds of pilgrims died July 31 when demonstrating Iranians clashed with police in Mecca.

The violence worsened already tense relations between Riyadh and Tehran, but Saudi officials remained low-key in their statements. Prince Nayef's statements were the barbed to date.

Prince Nayef said his country had tried to foster good relations with Tehran, but said the Iranians repaid the overtures by trying to discredit Saudi Arabia's role as guardians of Mecca and Medina.

"All this hatred and spite by the rulers of Iran is abnormal and we will not let them succeed," he said.

Israel: Jordan's artillery is the most modern in Arab World

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Jordanian army's modernisation of artillery amounts to a "revolutionary change," making Jordan's artillery the most advanced in the Arab World, according to an Israeli official.

Brigadier General Shmuel Reshef, the Israeli artillery corps commander, said the up-to-date artillery systems purchased by other Arab states substantially enlarged their capabilities in case of a military conflict with Israel.

Gen. Reshef said Israeli analysts "see a revolutionary change in the field of total modernisation of all (Jordanian) artillery systems."

"The Jordanian army has the most advanced artillery corps among the armies of the Arab states," he told Israeli army radio.

C. N. Reshef also said Jordan would soon receive a laser-guided 155-mm anti-tank shell which has a range of up to 16 kilometres and is able to pierce a 600-mm armour.

Syrians said to have fired missiles at Israeli planes

RASHAYA, Lebanon (R) — Syria has fired missiles at Israeli warplanes over Lebanon's Bekaa Valley for the first time in five years, Syrian military sources said Tuesday.

They said the warplanes were on reconnaissance on Monday over the Bekaa Valley.

In Tel Aviv the Israeli army spokesman said he knew of no missiles being fired at air force planes over Lebanon.

The Syrian sources gave no details but witnesses at this Bekaa town 10 kilometres from the Syrian border said the missiles missed and exploded harmlessly in mid-air.

It was the first such reported incident since Israeli clashed with Syrian forces during its 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The witnesses at Rashaya told Reuters the missiles were fired from Syrian military positions close to the Lebanese-Syrian border, but they could not tell from which side of it.

Beirut's independent Al Nahar newspaper said the missiles were fired from Syrian territory. Rashaya residents said Syrian forces had brought bulldozers



Prince Nayef

"We don't think they want war with Saudi Arabia, but aim to shake the security of the kingdom."

He spoke hours after the English-language daily Saudi Gazette reported that the last Iranian pilgrims had left Jeddah for home.

Prince Nayef refused to say whether Saudi Arabia would sever diplomatic relations with Iran if Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis fail to agree on unified Arab action against Tehran.

Crowds attacked the Saudi and Kuwaiti embassies in Tehran the day after the Mecca riots on July 31. A Saudi diplomat died from wounds received when he fell from a window during the assault.

Asked if the kingdom intended to bar Iranians from the holy shrines next year, Prince Nayef said: "We will not prevent anyone from coming... but if we are convinced there are criminal ele-

ments we reserve the right to turn them back."

Saudi Arabia says 402 people were killed, 275 of them Iranians, in the clashes outside the Grand Mosque in Mecca.

Iranian pilgrimage officials said at least 300 Iranians died, and claim Saudi Arabian police fired on some of them.

Prince Nayef again denied that any shots had been fired during what he said was a 30-minute confrontation.

"There were 70,000 Iranians. If we had opened fire, thousands would have been killed."

He said Saudi security forces had been ordered to disperse the demonstrators a few hundred metres from the Grand Mosque when the authorities became convinced the Iranians intended to storm it.

"When the Iranians retreated they crushed many innocent people. They killed several security people and pilgrims," Prince Nayef said, adding that the trouble-makers were armed with knives, hatchets and other weapons.

The minister said Iran had interpreted as weakness Saudi tolerance of political demonstrations by Iranian pilgrims in previous years.

"Their ultimate aim is to make Saudi Arabia, which they deeply hate, appear incapable of assuring security for the Haj," he said.

"The Iranian regime harbours rancour and ill-will towards Saudi

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Peres proposes 'sharing government' with Arabs

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Tuesday proposed "sharing the government" with the Arabs as an interim peace solution in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In reply to questions from an audience of 400 mostly American college students at Hebrew University, Mr. Peres said he believed it impossible to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute "in one jump."

"The gap is too wide," Mr. Peres said. "I think we shall have to do it gradually. Gradually means maybe we have to start by sharing the government on the West Bank and Gaza."

Under his plan, Israel would be in charge of defence in the area and the Palestinians would "basically be responsible for running their lives," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres declined to elaborate, indicating he feared that airing further details could jeopardise further peace efforts.

His idea resembles an "autonomy" plan for Palestinians outlined in the Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt which presaged their 1979 treaty.

Mr. Peres, who heads the Labour party, supports the idea of an international peace conference on the Middle East while Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the right-wing Likud bloc is opposed.

In his speech Mr. Peres made a new pitch for the conference, saying "we need peace badly... also because there's a demographic time clock working against us."

Mr. Peres said that 53 per cent of babies born in the Israeli-occupied areas were Arabs, and added that without a peace settlement, "against our choice, we may suddenly become a binational state."

About 3.5 million Jews and two million Arabs live in Israel and the occupied territories. Israeli experts predict that by the year 2000, the Jewish and Arab populations will be nearly equal, with 4.2 million Jews and 3.7 million Arabs.

Israel intends to match Arab missiles

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday Israel intends to meet the threat of Soviet nuclear missiles held by Arab states.

He declined to confirm or deny recent foreign news reports that Israel had nuclear missiles, but told a group of foreign university students:

"Israel did not introduce any missiles into the Middle East. We are facing missiles in the Middle East provided by the Soviet Union to many Arab countries. We have to make a major effort to match this challenge."

The British Observer weekly on Sunday quoted intelligence sources in Washington as saying Israel was developing a nuclear warhead for the Jericho II missile, a weapon whose existence Israel has never acknowledged.

Mr. Peres said Israel was prepared to negotiate with the Arab states to set up a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, but this

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King receives cables on Hijri new year

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan celebrated Tuesday the Hijri new year which marks the beginning of the year 1408 of the Muslim calendar.

On the occasion, His Majesty King Hussein received cables of good wishes from kings and heads of state of Arab and friendly nations.

Cables came from King Hassan II of Morocco, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates, South Yemeni President Haidar Al Attas, and Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani.

All government departments and public institutions were closed Tuesday. Also all liquor



stores, night clubs and bars were closed from Monday evening until Wednesday morning.

Crown Prince to attend Aqaba promotion seminar

AQABA (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will patronise a seminar on "Aqaba's present and future" due to be held here Sept. 17, according to Bassam Qaqish, president of the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA), which is organising the event.

Mr. Qaqish said that arrangements have been made for involving as many specialists as possible to discuss investments in the city and means for promoting its economic and tourism life.

Mr. Qaqish said that the semi-

nar was the brainchild of Prince Hassan during his recent trip to Aqaba. Prince Hassan requested that the private sector, as well as the public sector, be involved in the discussion of issues pertaining to the various aspects of life in the city.

A preparatory committee for the seminar has put together four working papers dealing with science, environment, commerce and industry, and transport and tourism. Participants from Amman and Aqaba will take part in the seminar.

Jordanian-Iraqi company to resume meetings today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general assembly of the Jordanian-Iraqi Industries Company is due to resume its meetings in Amman today to discuss topics related to the company's activities and future plans.

The general assembly opened the meeting in Amman Monday during which discussion centred on the possibility of setting up new company-owned industries to enhance cooperation between Jordan and Iraq.

Mr. Hatem Abdul Rashid, the Iraqi minister of industry, is heading his country's delegation to the meeting. Jordan's team is

led by Dr. Rajat Muasher, minister of industry, trade and supply. Upon arriving in Amman Monday, Mr. Abdul Rashid said that the meeting will review the company's plans for projects not only benefiting Jordan and Iraq, but also the entire Arab World.

The joint company last year took ownership of the Jordanian tomato paste factory and an Iraqi plant for pickling vegetables.

The Baghdad-based company was set up three years ago with a capital of JD 20 million shared equally by the Jordanian and Iraqi governments.

Arabs give ultimatum to Iran

(Continued from page 1)

states and all interference in their internal affairs," as well as the attacks on the Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti embassies in Tehran.

It called for guaranteed freedom of navigation in the Gulf, and backed measures taken by Kuwait to "defend its security and territorial integrity," taken as a reference to its refueled tankers and their American warship escorts.

The League reaffirmed its solidarity with Iraq "in the legitimate defence of its sovereignty, unity and integrity of its territory," and "categorically opposes Iranian occupation of the slightest bit of Iraqi territory."

Officials said Mr. Klibi and Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal were entrusted with consultations with a view to convening an extraordinary Arab summit devoted to the Gulf war.

The initial version of the Arab League resolution was much stronger, calling for a rupture of relations with Iran until it accepted the U.N. resolution. But after three days of constant bilateral and multilateral negotiations, a more watered down document was finally accepted.

Saudi Arabia, particularly, appeared to want a toughly worded resolution and there were suggestions that the Arab League revive the joint Arab Defence Pact which views an attack on one Arab nation as an attack on all. This would enable the Arab World to rally solidly behind Iraq.

But such tough language was opposed by Syria and Libya. Iran's only allies in the Arab World, as well as some of the Gulf states, such as Oman and the United Arab Emirates, who felt that breaking relations would serve no useful purpose.

Israel intends to match Arab missiles

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could not happen until all sides came to the negotiating table.

"The answer to all those dangers of missiles does not lie in the technological domain, but in the political domain. I believe that the time has come in the Middle East to look for political answers to technological dangers," he said.

A Jericho was test-fired from the Negev desert in May and flew over 960 kilometres, the sources told the Observer.

Last month the Geneva-based Defence Review said the Jericho would soon be tested again at a

range of 1,450 kilometres, a distance that would cover both distant Arab capitals and key Soviet naval bases on the Black Sea.

The report drew strong reaction from Moscow, which beamed several Hebrew-language broadcasts at Israel warning that development of the Jericho II amounted to a nuclear challenge to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Perez dismissed the Soviet allegations at the time, but declined to confirm or deny Israel was producing the Jericho.

Israel has refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and maintains official silence about its nuclear capabilities.

Work to begin on Aqaba bypass road

AQABA (Petra) — In the coming two months, work will begin on a road around Aqaba designed to drastically reduce the number of accidents, according to Bassam Qaqish, president of the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA).

He said that the road, which will bypass the city, will enable lorries hauling heavy loads to avoid the city while on their way to the port or out, thus reducing the number of road accidents which occur daily on the existing road.

The project, he said, also entails reorganising the entries to the port city, which will require the removal of garages and workshops from their present positions, and, subsequently, the banning of all trucks and heavy cars from entering the city.

The new road will also contribute to ARA's efforts to reduce the amount of pollution which results from the presence of huge numbers of lorries and cars in and around the city. Mr. Qaqish noted. He said that the existing Wadi Al Yitem-Aqaba road will be kept in good condition for use by small cars once the heavy lorries have been diverted to the ring road.

ARA has contributed to the project by providing expertise, and is now concluding preparations for the commencement of the scheme, according to Mr. Qaqish. The road will go behind the Aqaba mountains on the eastern side of the city and will connect with the port directly, he added.

The Ministry of Public Works has recently awarded a local construction firm a JD 5,943 million tender to carry out the first phase of the road, which is 11 kilometres in length. The construction of rest of the road, extending for another 21 kilometres, will be awarded to another firm, Mr. Qaqish pointed out.

The first phase of the road will have four lanes with a divider and a separate junction, as well as a canal for draining away Wadi Tou water.

Mr. Qaqish said that the present road leading to Aqaba witnesses many accidents, and is heavily congested with traffic. This situation is further aggravated by the presence of garages and workshops on both sides of the road.



Commander of the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) air force, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahayan, is received by His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad and the commander of the Jordanian Royal Air Force, Ihsan Shurdom, upon the UAE commander's arrival Tuesday in Amman (Petra photo).

UAE air force chief to tour military sites

AMMAN (Petra) — The commander of the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) air force, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahayan, arrived in Amman Tuesday for a visit expected to last several days.

Sheikh Mohammed will meet with a number of Jordanian officials and tour several military positions and archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

Upon his arrival in Amman, Sheikh Mohammed was greeted by His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad, the commander of the Jordanian Royal Air Force and the UAE ambassador to Jordan, as well as senior Royal Jordanian Air Force officers.

Central banks' council endorses export financing

TUNIS (Petra) — The Council of Arab Central Bank Governors has endorsed a decision by the Arab Monetary Fund to augment its team of financial experts and to provide information about financial markets to Arab countries.

The council also decided to set up a system for financing Arab countries exports to boost trade. The council called on Arab states to exchange information about monetary policies.

Jordan was represented at the two-day meeting by Mr. Hussein Al Qasem, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, and Dr. Adib Haddad, director of studies and research at the bank.

Arab air cargo group, airlines to discuss tariffs, air traffic

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based Arab Air Cargo Organisation (AACO) opened a meeting Tuesday to discuss a host of subjects related to the new tariffs for air travel between the Middle East and Europe, and other relevant issues.

A spokesman for the Royal Jordanian said that 10 Arab airlines are taking part in the meeting which is expected to last several days.

The meeting is being con-

ducted by a special AACO committee, which, in addition to tariffs, will discuss regulations related to air traffic, and the application of regulations made by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), especially with regard to matters related to the Gulf region, the spokesman said.

Mr. Adli Dajani of Jordan is director of the AACO, which has moved its offices from Beirut to Amman.

Information minister to attend conference in Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib left Amman for Tunis Tuesday to head Jordan's delegation to the Arab Information Ministers conference due to open in the Tunisian capital on Thursday.

The conference has been prepared by a special committee of

Arab experts who have been meeting in Tunis for the past few days.

Also leaving Amman for the Tunis conference was Mr. Jawad Maraga, director general of the Jordan Company for Television, Radio, and Cinema Production.

Phosphate, fertiliser export figures rise over last year

AQABA (Petra) — Jordan exported more phosphate and fertiliser in the first half of 1987 than in the same period of 1986, according to a spokesman for the Jordanian Ports Corporation.

In the first half of 1987, a total of 300,709 tonnes of fertilisers were exported, compared with 276,598 tonnes in the same period last year, registering nearly nine

per cent increase, he said. Potash exportation via Aqaba in the past half-year amounted to 561,861 tonnes, he said.

According to the spokesman, the following countries imported the phosphate and fertilisers: Italy, Pakistan, Malaysia, India, Brazil, France, Japan, China, South Korea, Taiwan and Arab Gulf states.

W. Bank students to get time to apply for study abroad

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Higher Education has issued regulations designed to provide facilities for students of the occupied Arab territories and more time for their enrollment in foreign universities.

Issa Qasir, director of a ministry department in charge of students abroad, said that students from the occupied West Bank will have extra time to apply for seats at foreign universities. While students from the East Bank have until February to find places at foreign universities, those from the West Bank will have one whole year for that purpose, Mr. Qasir noted.

He said that there will be no need for West Bank students to cross into the East Bank to enquire about regulations and apply for universities, and that students' relatives will be allowed to do this for them.

The Ministry of Higher Education has authorised three offices in the West Bank towns of Jenin, Hebron, and Ramallah to help facilitate procedures for students who refer to them with enquiries about studies abroad.

According to Mr. Qasir, students from the West Bank, like those from the East Bank, will not be prevented from travel abroad for higher studies, and the ministry will issue them permits to do so.

Earlier this month, the Ministry of Higher Education announced that only those students with an 85 per cent in their final tawjihi grades can study medicine, those with 80 per cent can study engineering, and those with 65 per cent can study other subjects.

The ministry also announced that, though it will not stop students from going abroad for higher studies, it is not committed to endorse their degrees by issuing equivalent degrees with Jordanian universities if their tawjihi results do not meet the standards set by the ministry and by the Council of Higher Education.

Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad defended his ministry's regulations and these new measures at a press gathering on Aug. 17, by saying that they were aimed at curbing the surplus of graduates in certain fields, and to direct students toward specialisations more relevant to the Kingdom's economic problems.

The decision exempts those who have already obtained acceptance from universities abroad based on this year's first semester grades, and those who obtained tawjihi in previous years, are currently serving their compulsory military service, and intend to apply for further education abroad.

Al Aqsa Mosque committee to meet in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian committee in charge of the restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Arab Jerusalem will meet in Amman Sept. 10 under the chairmanship of Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan, who heads the committee.

The meeting, which will be attended by committee members living in Jerusalem, will cover financial matters related to the restoration project, including refurbishing the dome of the Holy Rock, for which tenders had earlier been announced.

The restoration of the Al Aqsa Mosque includes building a new pulpit to replace the Saladin Al Ayyoubi pulpit which was destroyed in the Israel-perpetrated arson of 1968.

The Jordanian committee last year said it expects the cost of the project to be \$2 million and will take nearly three years. A higher committee, comprising Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, and Pakistan, was set up to supervise the work and to raise the necessary funds for the project.

The Jordanian government also held contacts with Arab and Islamic countries to launch cooperation for the reconstruction of the pulpit. These contacts resulted in assistance from a number of Islamic nations.

The project will involve at least 30 technicians with experience in wood carving needed for the pulpit.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aqaba to set up shopping centres

AQABA (Petra) — Aqaba Municipality plans to establish shopping centres at the cost of JD 93,000, a project which will be carried out in three stages, according to Mr. Ahmad Kabarity, chairman of the municipality's administrative committee. He said that another plan being worked out by the municipality envisages building a market place for meat, fish and vegetables, to be built in the coming year at the cost of JD 300,000.

Jordan to exhibit at Baghdad fair

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan will participate in Baghdad's International Fair due to open in November 1987, according to Mr. Adnan Al Azab, the commercial attaché at Jordan's embassy in Baghdad. Mr. Azab said that Jordan will display a variety of new industrial products at its pavilion, as well as traditional products. The Jordanian trade centre in the Iraqi capital has received numerous requests from Jordanian companies wishing to participate in the fair, Mr. Azab added. He paid tribute to the strong economic and trade links between Iraq and Jordan and noted that the Iraqi market is very important for Jordanian products which have become familiar to Iraqi consumers.

Increase in transit goods via Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — The volume of transit goods via Aqaba port increased by 20 per cent during the first half of this year compared to the same period of 1986, according to Ports Corporation sources. The sources added that 2,569,290 tonnes of goods passed in transit via Aqaba port during the first half of 1987, up from 2,128,811 tonnes during the same period in 1986.

Farm machinery to be shown in Jerash

JERASH (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud will open an exhibition of agricultural machinery and equipment in Jerash Thursday. The three-day exhibition will show farmers from the highlands and rainy regions different farm implements and modern machinery which can be used for developing their lands. Several local companies are displaying samples of their machines and equipment in the exhibition, which will take place at the municipal soccer ground.

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Oil and the freedom of navigation in Gulf

RECENT reports indicate that markets are glutted with oil and that prices are falling sharply below OPEC's benchmark price of \$18 a barrel.

Observers seem to be certain that overproduction by OPEC is the main reason behind the current glut which must have started when the oil companies, following the July 31 Mecca riots, began hiding high prices (\$21 a barrel) for Mideast oil, in fear of increased tension in the Gulf.

The oil-producing countries in the region, eager to avoid curtailing exports, and seeking to boost income on higher prices, started to exceed assigned quotas, anticipating interruptions of oil flow in the near future. But despite the mounting tension, those interruptions never occurred, leaving the market glutted, thus forcing lower prices.

OPEC won major credit when it successfully managed to restrain oil output and increase prices to \$18 a barrel. Yet OPEC's success in achieving market stability over the last few months was indirectly undermined by Iran's intransigence over production quotas, and the escalation of hostilities with neighbouring Arab countries and the international community. It is high time that decisive action be taken by the United Nations and the superpowers to insure safety of navigation in the Gulf. In addition, they must stop Iran from escalating tension in the area, because the major threat to the world lies in the interruption of oil flow, which would cause an international energy crisis. Moreover, the OPEC countries should remember well the discord they experienced in 1985, which resulted in the plummeting of oil prices to less than \$10 a barrel.

Analysts have predicted that the coming year will witness the beginning of an upturn in the economies of the Gulf region based on higher oil prices. But if OPEC is overproducing, and discord is surfacing, the region should expect deeper recession in the years to come.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Jordan's unique status

THE Dag Hammarskjöld Academy has awarded its 1987 peace prize to His Majesty King Hussein in recognition of his efforts towards achieving world peace. Honouring the King means honouring Jordan as a whole and is an expression of the academy's support for the Kingdom's leadership efforts to end conflicts and reach peaceful settlements. Thanks to the King and his wise leadership, Jordan has acquired a unique position among world nations despite its limited and meagre resources and despite the challenges and the numerous odds. Jordan, under the leadership of King Hussein, has been relying on its own people for building a dynamic society, well-equipped with knowledge and determined to forge ahead with more determination. Choosing King Hussein to receive the academy's 1987 peace award also reflects support for Jordan which seeks to establish right and justice instead of injustice and force and also stability and peace instead of tension and destruction. The academy's decision to award the King the prize is a show of support for this country's endeavours to arrive at a peaceful settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict and backing our stand and our drive to have U.N. resolutions implemented to reach peace. This is in clear contrast to Israel's stand which is oriented towards expansionism, occupation and the imposition of the de facto situation in total disregard to international principles and laws. The peace award underlines the fact that the Arabs are peace-seekers opposed to aggression.

Al Dustour: Iran should be isolated

AS Arab foreign ministers continue their meeting in Tunis observers regard the Saudi Arabian proposal of severing ties with Iran as one of the most viable measures and practical steps to be taken at the moment. Such a step in fact could reflect the unified stand of the Arab Nation, and paving the way for joint action in the face of Iran's expansionist designs in the Gulf region. The Iranians have not been satisfied with issuing threats to Arab countries and trying to provoke them in different ways. They have also been intent on causing damage to Arab interests. Therefore it would not be reasonable for the Arabs to maintain good relations with Iran and the Saudi Arabian proposal seems to be one of the most effective measures to be taken at the moment. Some of the Arab countries have regrettably been showing indifference as to Iran's aggression on Iraq and its provocations in the Gulf, and this has encouraged the aggressors to pursue their ambitions and their plans. The attitude of some Arab states has indeed hardened Iran's position and made it reject all peace bids and peace plans. Arab response to Saudi Arabia's proposal will no doubt reflect a unanimous voice by the Arab Nation and will deal a severe diplomatic defeat to the Iranians. The Arab League foreign ministers should take prompt measures in the face of Iran's campaigns and provocative measures against our Arab Nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Crucial task in Tunis

ARAB foreign ministers continue their meetings in Tunis against a background of turmoil, tension and conflict in the Gulf region. These ministers, who have met primarily to find a way for ending the Gulf conflict and bringing peace to the Arab region, realise the seriousness of the situation and the enormous task awaiting them. The ministers are tackling issues of destiny as their nation continues to confront danger and a gloomy future for the Arab Nation, if they do not take speedy measures to avoid the threat. Perhaps the Arab ministers will succeed in finding the proper means for ending differences among their capitals to pave the way for an effective solution for the problems that had been plaguing their nation and also for settling the Gulf conflict that has cost them dearly. The Arab masses are filled with bitterness over what is happening in the Gulf, and they are appalled at the prospects of a major conflagration in their region. The more efforts the ministers can exert towards achieving a settlement for the Gulf war the more the way will be paved for the Arabs to arrive at a unified stand that can guarantee a happy solution for all parties. Perhaps amidst the bloodshed and the sound of war and the scenes of destruction, the ministers can find a solution and safeguard their nation's interests and future.

Reagan mystique fading in twilight of presidency

By Gene Gibbons
Reuters

SANTA BARBARA — As Ronald Reagan begins the last phase of his presidency, he appears to have lost the political salesmanship skills that earned him the alias "great communicator."

"Nobody wants to admit it but we've got a caretaker situation," a former administration official said.

Reagan, whose youthful looks had belied his 76 years and status as the oldest president in U.S. history, has aged visibly in recent months. He is greyer and more wrinkled.

Although there has been no recurrence of the colon cancer for which he underwent major surgery in 1985, Reagan has been treated for an array of minor health problems including prostate trouble common among older men and a non-deadly form of skin cancer.

In addition, he has had to deal with a series of emotional blows, including the deaths of close friends CIA Director William Casey and Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige, and the indictment of two former aides — Lyn Nofziger and Michael Deaver — on influence-peddling charges.

Public officials and independent analysts say all this, combined with the loss of public trust from the Iran-contra scandal, is likely to keep Reagan from working the kind of political magic he had mastered earlier in his presidency.

"The easy days of governing are over for Ronald Reagan," in his last 17 months of office, wrote Washington Post columnist Richard Cohen.

"Congress is controlled by Democrats, and the people, still affectionate towards this decent man, increasingly find him irrelevant."

Erosion of Reagan's political mystique was reflected in a Los Angeles Times poll published a few days after Reagan arrived in his home state of California for summer vacation.

Four-fifths of those interviewed said they did not pay much attention to Reagan's Aug. 12 speech in which he sought to reassert his leadership in the aftermath of congressional hearings on the Iran affair.

Fifty-seven per cent said the president's ability to lead had been diminished by the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran and diversion of profits to Nicaraguan contras and 51 per cent said they did not believe Reagan's version of the times.

The Times poll queried 2,040 American adults on Aug. 14 to 19. Its sponsors said the opinion survey had an error margin of four per cent.

The former White House official quoted earlier said the poll's findings were foreshadowed by Reagan's failure to rally public support for an "economic bill of rights," a package of budget reforms unveiled with fanfare earlier this summer.

"The whole world was focusing

on Iran-contra and he's out talking about the economic bill of rights. It was kind of sad," said the ex-official, who asked not to be identified.

In a recent televised speech, Reagan said he still could shape events during his remaining time in the White House.

"My fellow Americans, I have a year-and-a-half before I have to clean out this desk. I'm not about to let the dust and cobwebs settle on the furniture in this office or on me," he said in his Oval Office address.

Reagan, who will have presided over a rebelling of the national debt by the time his successor is inaugurated, said in a Time magazine interview that high on his list of priorities was reducing the huge federal deficit.

But White House aides privately admit Reagan is unlikely to win congressional approval of his two cures for the deficit: A constitutional amendment mandating balanced federal budgets and an expansion of presidential veto power.

They also worry that another item high on Reagan's agenda — democratising Nicaragua — will get caught in a political crossfire between liberals who suspect administration peace moves and conservatives who fear a sellout of the contras.

To reassure his conservative supporters he will back the contras, Reagan is to meet with six Nicaraguan rebel leaders during a four-day stay in Los Angeles starting Tuesday.

"The president has no lack of resolve to sock by the freedom fighters," says White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker.

But members of Reagan's inner circle privately say he will have trouble getting Congress to send more military aid to the contras if Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government adopts political reforms by Sept. 30, when current funds run dry.

Reagan's chances for changing social policies, such as curbing abortion and pornography, are so gloomy that domestic policy adviser Gary Bauer has recommended the president use executive orders to bypass Congress.

But other aides fear that could alienate legislators at a time when the administration is pushing for the nomination of Robert Bork as a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

A White House spokesman hinted last week that Bauer's advice would be ignored. In Los Angeles, Reagan will also deliver a major speech on East-West relations — the improvement of which looms as one of his highest priorities.

A U.S.-Soviet agreement on medium-range nuclear missiles could lead to a summit this year between Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and divert attention from Reagan's problems.

But even a historic arms accord and a Reagan-Gorbachev summit would likely be overshadowed quickly as the 1988 presidential race picks up speed next January.

Crucial referendum may tip political balance in Turkey

By Emel Anil
The Associated Press

ANKARA — Turkey's voters go to the polls Sept. 6 to decide a referendum that some say could lead to political instability and others hope will fulfill their dreams of democracy.

The electorate appears divided over the proposal to restore full rights to 133 former politicians banned from politics until 1992 by a clause in the 1982 constitution, which was brokered by the military.

Among those prevented from heading or joining political parties or running for elective office are two former prime ministers, Bulent Ecevit and Suleyman Demirel.

The ban has not prevented Demirel and Ecevit from managing political parties behind the scenes or actively campaigning for their political rights. Demirel is associated with the True Path party and Ecevit with the leftist Democratic Left Party, which is headed by his wife Rahsan.

Prevented from addressing the nation through the state-run television, they have been touring the country for the past few weeks to drum up support for the lifting of the bans, both drawing huge crowds.

According to a poll published Sunday by Istanbul's daily Milliyet, 45 per cent of the respondents said they would vote against the restoration of political rights and 39 per cent said they would vote for lifting the bans. The rest were undecided or planned not to vote.

A poll published Monday by another Istanbul daily, the independent Hurriyet, showed the opposite — 43.5 per cent of those surveyed favoured restoring political rights and 36.6 per cent opposed it.

Premier Turgut Ozal openly advocates retaining the restrictions.

Ozal's ruling Motherland Party came to power in 1983 general elections which restored civilian rule. The party has a 252-seat majority in the 400-member parliament and the referendum would lead to an immediate change in government.

But, if the bans are lifted and the political field open to all potential candidates, Ozal may not be able to form another parliamentary majority in the next elections. That could throw Turkey once again into a period of coalition governments which have not worked well in the past, analysts say.

Demirel, once unbacked from the political bans, could prove to be a formidable rival for votes from across the political spectrum. The next general election is to be held no later than the fall of 1988.

Last May, the parliament adopted a constitutional amendment lifting the bans. But the measure also contained Ozal's proposal that final approval be subject to national referendum. Mumtaz Soysal, a Milliyet columnist, called Ozal's campaign against lifting the bans after supporting the measure in parliament "the biggest political hypocrisy in Turkish history."

Other political analysts believe Ozal has placed a tough political choice before the nation. They say parliamentary approval should have sufficed for restoring political rights and Ozal should have chosen general elections as the proper format to deal with his political rivals.

If the voters decide to retain the ban, Turkey may be viewed by its Western allies as being undemocratic, some analysts say.

Moscow strengthens ties with Tehran

While the U.S. fleet convoys reflagged oil tankers through the strife-torn Gulf, the Soviet Union is moving to improve its relations with Iran, writes our Moscow correspondent.

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union and Iran have agreed to co-operate on large-scale economic projects in an attempt by Moscow to improve its position as a potential mediator in the Gulf war and strengthen its standing in the region.

With attention focused on the tense situation in the Gulf, announcement of the agreement raised concern in the West that the move could have major strategic significance.

But well-informed sources in Moscow say the move towards improved Soviet-Iranian economic co-operation appears to be only an agreement in principle at this stage, with no evidence of a signed accord for major industrial or oil related projects.

The agreement was announced in broad terms by the official TASS news agency after a recent visit to Tehran by Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov.

In the absence of detail, speculation focused on the possibility of a resumption of Iranian gas deliveries to the Soviet Union. But a Soviet spokesman said that this was still under discussion, along with possible rail links between Iran and Soviet Central Asia.

Other possible projects mentioned in Moscow include conversion of Iran's gas pipeline to the Soviet Union for oil deliveries, transit facilities to link Iran's Caspian Sea ports with the Black Sea, joint Caspian oil prospecting and Soviet co-operation in Iranian steel milling, power and dam-building projects.

Iran and the Soviet Union have been seeking to improve relations in the past 18 months despite

serious differences over the Gulf war and the Afghan conflict.

Moscow, while continuing to supply arms to Iraq and providing protection for Kuwaiti oil tankers from Iranian attack, has managed to sustain the process through a series of contacts concentrating on the economic sphere.

Last December, the two sides announced agreement on some aspects of Iranian natural gas exports to the Soviet union as part of an economic protocol which also foresaw the return of hundreds of Soviet experts sent home from Iranian steel mills and power plants when Iraq began bombing Iranian civilian and economic targets in mid-1985.

Iran suspended gas deliveries to Moscow in 1980 when Moscow rejected a major price increase demanded by Tehran's newly-installed Islamic government. Under a 1970 contract, Tehran has been supplying 10 billion cubic metres annually through its Soviet-built Igat-one pipeline, for use in the southern Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan. This allowed Moscow to export more of its gas to Western Europe.

In exchange for the gas, Moscow had built a major steel mill at the central Iranian city of Isfahan and provided plant and technology for other projects. Despite the hopeful words last December, there has been no confirmation to date of a return of the Soviet experts who serviced these installations.

The granting of transit facilities for Iran to the Black Sea also remains in doubt. Moscow cited security grounds in rejecting a 1980 request from Tehran for access to the Black Sea through



its river and canal network. Such facilities would allow Tehran to circumvent the Gulf, however, and could be of future strategic interest for the Soviet Union.

With Washington embroiled in the Iran arms sales scandal and with mounting domestic opposition to U.S. military protection of Kuwaiti oil shipping in the Gulf, Moscow and Tehran have also been edging closer on the diplomatic front.

Tehran, which shares Moscow's interest in diminishing the U.S. military presence in the Gulf, endorsed a Soviet call for the removal of all foreign warships from the area.

In seeking to improve their relationship, both sides stand to gain through long-term economic co-operation.

For Moscow, greater confi-

dence achieved through closer economic ties could increase its leverage on Tehran to work for a political settlement in the Gulf war, with the Soviet Union serving as mediator with Baghdad. This would enhance Soviet credibility among Arab states in the Gulf region.

Moscow is also hoping for a reduction of Iranian support for guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, although this is seen as a lesser objective.

For Tehran, Soviet co-operation would help ease the burden of the war and could in a limited measure compensate for its isolation from Western powers, including Britain and France as well as the United States, in efforts to rebuild its economy — Financial Times feature.

American presidential hopefuls gear up for 'super Tuesday' seven months ahead

By Alexander G. Higgins
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Tuesday night nearly seven months from now is shaping up as the centre-piece of the early 1988 presidential campaign.

March 8 will be "super Tuesday," the day Republican and Democratic Party organisations in a record number of states vote simultaneously on who their parties should put forward in the November presidential election.

The results that night won't be enough to guarantee a nomination for any candidate at the formal party conventions next summer. But the super Tuesday results, in the glare of newspaper and television publicity, will have a powerful influence on later primary elections in other states that, together, will control the conventions themselves.

There was a super Tuesday in advance of the 1984 presidential elections, but next year's event will involve double the number of states. Convinced that a strong showing March 8 will be essential to their fortunes, the candidates to succeed Ronald Reagan have been trying to influence the super Tuesday results by campaigning hard for primaries set for even earlier dates in Iowa, New Hampshire and other states.

The opposition Democrats will hold primaries or caucuses in 20 states on super Tuesday, electing more than 1,300 of the 4,160

delegates who will attend the national convention. Reagan's ruling Republicans will vote in 16 states, electing about a third of their 2,227 convention delegates. Previously primaries were held in only a few states in early March, while other states held their events in April, May and June.

The grouping of so many primary events early in the year is expected to speed each party's decision on the two presidential nominees who will compete in the Nov. 8 general election.

The field is still open, and some hopefuls are campaigning even though they have yet to "declare" themselves candidates.

The Democrats include Senators Paul Simon, Joseph Biden and Albert Gore, Congressman Richard Gephardt, Massachusetts State Governor Michael Dukakis, former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt and civil rights leader Jesse Jackson. They have been dubbed "the seven dwarfs" because of their small stature in national popularity.

Among possible Democratic candidates who have yet to declare are congresswoman Patricia Schroeder, Senator Sam Nunn and Ohio Governor Richard Celeste.

Republican hopefuls include Vice President George Bush, Senate minority leader Robert Dole, and Congressman Jack Kemp, who have been leading in public opinion surveys. Among other prospects are Evangelist

Pat Robertson, former Delaware Gov. Pierre S. Du Pont, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig and former Senator Paul Laxalt.

Because most of the states holding primaries on super Tuesday are in the conservative south, political analysts think it will improve the chances of the more conservative candidates — right-wing Republicans and centrist Democrats.

In recent years the Republicans and Democrats have been revising the way they choose their nominees for president to make the process as Democratic as possible while still appealing to the largest number of voters.

The parties in each of the 50 states devise their own methods for choosing delegates to the national nominating conventions, when each party's candidate will be selected. The Democrats will meet in Atlanta July 18-21 and the Republicans in New Orleans Aug. 15-18.

The usual pattern is that each state party holds a primary election so that rank-and-file voters can indicate their preference among a field of candidates. The state party then sends delegates to the national convention, committed to voting for the candidate that won the state primary.

Alternatively, 18 states will hold caucuses, in which party activists meet first on a local level then work up to state level to choose national convention dele-

gates committed to a favoured candidate.

These state events are strung out from January through June, but this more states have been scheduling their primaries and caucuses earlier.

The development of super Tuesday reflects the desire of southerners, particularly Democrats, to create a regional primary to give them greater influence in selecting the nominees.

Southern Democrats want to counterbalance what they see as the influence of northern liberals, organised labour and left-of-centre "special interest" groups that had resulted in the party's nominating presidential candidates like Walter Mondale in 1984 whom they regard unacceptable to the southern voters — and to mainstream Americans.

The Democratic Party, liberal or left of centre in most parts of the country, is much more conservative in the south, which were the slave-holding states in the confederacy of the civil war.

For years the Democrats were the overwhelmingly dominant party in the region, but they have been losing strength in recent years to the Republicans, who have won all but one of the presidential elections since 1964.

The decisive primary phase begins next Feb. 8, when Iowa holds its caucuses. New Hampshire, traditionally the first state to hold its primary elections, has scheduled them next year for Feb. 16.

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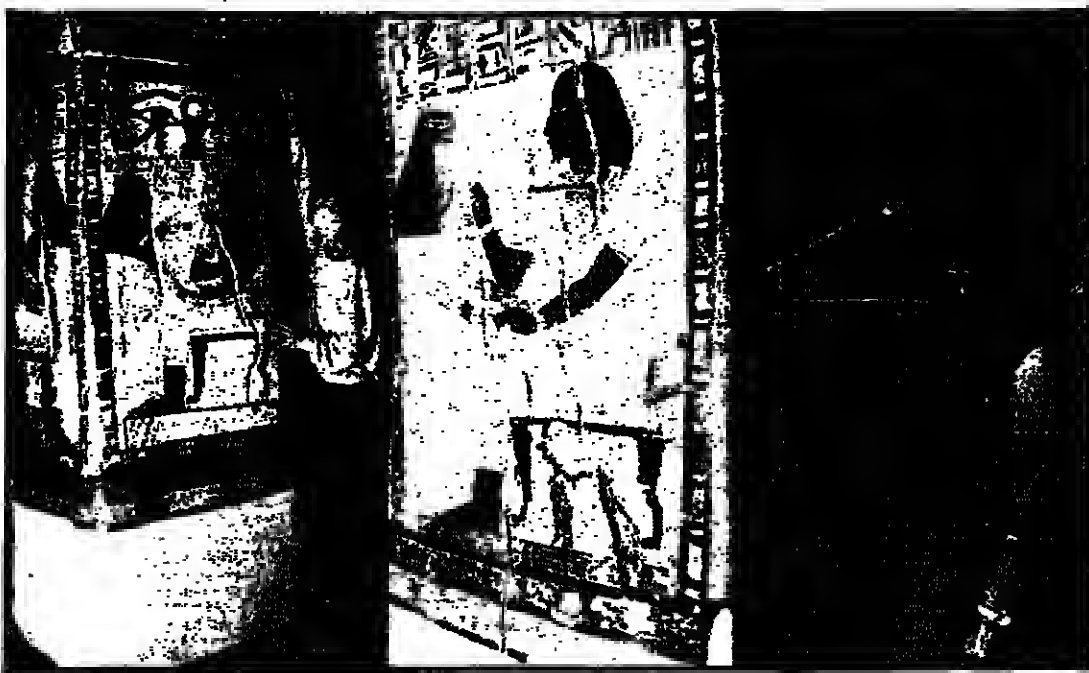
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A replica of the 3,500-year-old burial chamber of the mayor of Thebes is on show in Hildesheim, West Germany, as part of the Romer- and Pelizaeus Museum's exhibition entitled Egypt's Rise to World Power (Photo: Dad/DPA)

Pharaoh's face is 'pieced together'

By Stephanie Hauer

HILDESHEIM (DAD) — "Egypt's Rise to World Power—Archaeological Treasures of the Early New Kingdom," an exhibition at the Romer- and Pelizaeus Museum in Hildesheim, is a magic moment in the study of classical antiquity. It features fragments of defaced statues of two pharaohs pieced together for the first time and reassembled from sections normally housed in different museums — and different countries.

The face of the light stone bust of Pharaoh Thutmose III was only found in 1963 — by a team of Polish archaeologists. The bust had been found 56 years earlier by American archaeologists. It was faceless, the face having been severed by a single blow, presumably by Coptic monks who sought refuge in the burial chambers in the early Christian era and were determined to break the magic spell of the heather bust.

Hildesheim curator Arne Eggebrecht persuaded the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Egyptian Museum in Cairo to part with their respective fragments for the duration of the exhibition, allowing them to be pieced together in West Germany. King Amenophis II has been given a similar facelift. This spectacular arrangement, he says, is intended to encourage debate on "new and generous solutions in view of the increasingly urgent need for friendly, worldwide cooperation."

The Hildesheim exhibition comprises about 300 exhibits dating from 1550 to 1400 B.C., the period when Ancient Egypt was in its heyday. The exhibits are on loan from leading museums in Europe, the United States and Egypt. They stand for the New Kingdom in its full splendour, after campaigns that extended the pharaohs' writ to large areas of what are now Israel, Lebanon,

Jordan, Syria and Sudan. In addition to the courtly civilisation of the pharaohs and senior officials the exhibition features items of everyday life such as storage jars, chairs, clothing, jewellery and cosmetics, and utensils such as trowels, papyrus-making equipment, axes and sculptors' mallets. Mycenaean vessels testify to Ancient Egypt's wide-ranging trade ties.

A further highlight of the exhibition is a replica of the burial chamber of Sennefer, mayor of Thebes in the 15th century B.C. The frescoes were transferred by means of a newly devised and complicated photographic process to the replica chamber walls made of polystyrene sheeting. The chamber is known as the vineyard grave on account of the portrayal of vines swaying in the wind. Other decorations are mainly rituals of burial and the beyond. They testify to the finest artists of the XVIII Dynasty.

Rock stars stage charity for Lebanese, Palestinian orphans

IN A unique gesture of goodwill toward Arab children, British rock stars The Cure recently staged a special benefit concert in New York City to raise money for Lebanese, Palestinian and American orphans.

The Cure appeared at the Ritz on Tuesday, August 11, before a capacity crowd of 1800 fans. Tickets priced at \$22.50 sold out within one hour of an announcement on a local radio station.

The concert was the last show of the group's sold out tour of the U.S. and marked the fulfillment of the final part of a comprehensive agreement reached at a meeting last December between the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and The Cure concerning their recording entitled "Killing An Arab."

At that meeting Cure manager Chris Parry, speaking for lead singer Robert Smith, offered to stage a concert for orphans in America and in the Middle East. It was proposed that half of the net proceeds would be given to a U.S. charity with the other half being equally divided

between a Palestinian and Lebanese orphanage.

ADC Director of Public relations Faris Bouhafa attended the concert last Tuesday to accept two checks for \$8,679.00 each on behalf of the Society of In'ash Al Usra (Al Birah, West Bank) and Zahrat Al Ihsan (Beirut). Father Kevin Sullivan accepted the American portion of the funds on behalf of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York.

Last week's concert was the final chapter of a controversy that was the focus of international attention when the largest organisation of Arab-Americans (ADC), the largest entertainment conglomerate in the U.S. (Warner Communications), and British rock superstars The Cure successfully hammered out a unique agreement concerning the distribution of the song "Killing An Arab."

At a packed press conference in New York last January, The Cure issued a statement deploring the misuse and misinterpretation of their song which, in fact, was inspired by Albert Camus'

existentialist novel "The Stranger" and was meant as a statement against the senseless killing of an Arab by the novel's protagonist Meursault.

In a terse two-page release Robert Smith, composer of "Killing An Arab," stated that his recording "is being used increasingly by certain reactionary factions of the media, most notably by some particularly brainless and irresponsible DJ's, as part of a wave of anti-Arab feeling currently existing in some parts of America."

He went on to say that he was "shocked and dismayed that this song has been so insensitively and sensationally abused but...even more shocked and dismayed that it should have caused any hurt to any of the Arab people anywhere in the world."

Following negotiations, Robert Smith took the unprecedented step of requesting that 800 radio stations in the U.S. no longer play "Killing An Arab" and that Elektra Records, a subsidiary of Warner Communications, place a sticker on the front of hundreds

of thousands of Cure albums, audio-cassettes and compact disks with the following message:

"The song Killing An Arab has absolutely no racist overtones whatsoever. It is a song which decries the existence of all prejudice and consequent violence. The Cure condemns its use in furthering anti-Arab feeling."

With The Cure poised for major international stardom it is likely that the above message will be conveyed to millions of record buyers for years to come.

In a letter accompanying the checks to representatives of both Middle East charities Bouhafa applauded the successful conclusion of this most unique example of conflict resolution stating that: "We as an organisation are very proud of the agreement that we reached with The Cure. We were particularly impressed by their sensitivity and genuine sense of outrage at the manner in which a song of theirs was misinterpreted and misused by those who seek to further inflame anti-Arab senti-

ment in the United States. As a result of our accord with The Cure, many millions of young Americans will be exposed to the simple, but powerful message that racism against Arabs is wrong."

He further stated that, "It is to the band's credit that they offered to raise money for Lebanese and Palestinian orphans. To my knowledge, no major American or British musical group has ever done such a thing for Arab children and I hope that this will not be the last time that we can arrange such an event."

Echoing his sentiments last January, ADC President Abdeen Jabara stated that "the good faith cooperation of all the concerned parties led to what must be viewed as an outstanding agreement with long range educational benefits and very meaningful short-term financial benefits to orphan children in Palestine and Lebanon. Arab-Americans and our brothers and sisters throughout the Middle East should be proud of this agreement." — ADC Press Release.

Peking squirms under population pressure

Chinese population programmes are being knocked off target by economic and social pressures. Colina MacDonnell reports.

PEKING — China is alarmed at its soaring population, which if unchecked could approach two billion by the year 2050.

Despite success with the "one child family" policy, another 14 million mouths were added to the total last year bringing it to 1.06 billion. A further 15.9 million are expected in 1987. If continued for this, this rate of increase could throw out all Peking's calculations for improving living standards.

The current population target is 1.2 billion by the year 2000, with the figure settling at around 1.4 billion in the 2030s or 2040s, but this looks increasingly unattainable.

Chinese records show that 40 per cent of women in the countryside have had three or more children in the past few years, the China Daily recently reported. In 1986, second births reached 6.9 million and third births 2.9 million. This upsurge is a major factor in the sudden overall rise.

Another factor is the number of women born in the baby boom of the 1960s now reaching child-bearing age. Peking has always been aware that this would pose a problem, but the upward trend is aggravated by new pressures for

bigger families. These are generated by the rural reform policies which mean that larger households earn more money.

China's most populous province, Sichuan, expressed concern earlier this year about its population growth. This was put down to the new peak in women reaching child-bearing age; plus a big increase in early marriages; a wider spread of couples permitted to have a second child; and unplanned births slipping past officials.

Jiang Minkuan, the governor of the province, promised much closer checks, stricter examinations and more serious application of the rewards and penalties system. But these are not easy to carry out.

Peking concedes that the more remote the area, the harder it is to control births. This is serious since the fringe regions of China take the biggest subsidies. Qinghai, a vast province of mountain and desert with a still tiny population, already receives huge sums from the central government. Its reported 34 per cent increase in births last year will mean a growing drain on national budgets.

There are fines for parents who produce more than their quota of

children, but these have become less meaningful now that more hands can be profitably occupied in the rural areas with agricultural sidelines or light industry. Peasants have become adept at concealing pregnancies to avoid official pressure to abort.

Traditionally a large family with many sons has represented security. Girls are perceived to be weaker workers and under the traditional system left their parents' families for good on marriage and so provided no support in old age. Consequently, when the first child was a girl, there was strong pressure to keep trying for a boy. Where officials resisted, there were outbreaks of female infanticide.

Two years ago Peking agreed to some relaxation of the one child policy and nine out of China's 29 provinces now allow couples with a girl to try again. The non-Chinese minorities, whose populations are relatively small, have always been permitted some leeway. As a result, numbers have shot up — in Guangdong province last year, for instance, third (or later) children totalled nearly 500,000.

Peking now seems likely to toughen its policy. To feed another 200 million by the year 2000, the country would need to produce an extra 80 million ton-

nes of grain annually, the China Daily has calculated. With gains in agriculture now more difficult to achieve as the boost from the 1979 reforms tails off, China will have problems achieving that without shifting resources from other sectors.

China's family planning programme has come under international scrutiny. The U.S. has withheld funds from U.N. population programmes helping China, accusing Peking of resorting to coercion and forced abortions to keep families small.

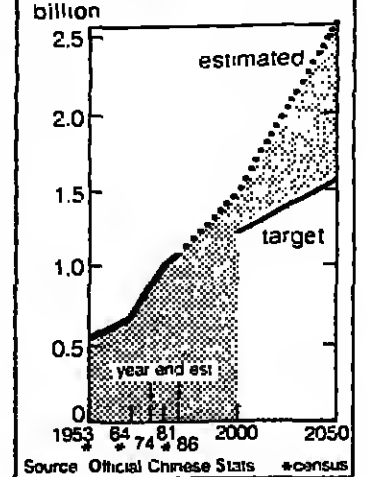
Zhang Pei, deputy director of the publicity department of China's family planning commission, admitted that some local officials had used coercion, but said they would be disciplined.

"China has always opposed forced abortion," he said.

Voluntary abortion remains a major means of population control, with one for every 1.7 births. Intrauterine devices and tubal ligation are the other common preventative measures.

To ascertain trends, Peking held a sample census on July 1 involving 10 million people dotted throughout China. Since the national census in 1982, there have been big changes in population distribution. For instance, around one million people have moved to work in Peking. Educa-

Chinese population growth



Source: Official Chinese Stats. *consus

tional and socio-economic status is also thought to have changed.

Premier Zhao Ziyang, speaking on Chinese TV recently to mark the U.N.'s "Five Billion Day" when the world's population was expected to hit that figure, expressed confidence in Peking's family planning programme. The country would keep to its target of 1.2 billion people at the end of the century if it stuck to its policies, he said. But social and economic pressures make it increasingly unlikely that it will be able to do so — Financial Times news feature.

Plans are unfolding for future of Titanic artifacts

By Sydney Rubin
The Associated Press

PARIS — Titanic treasures being snatched from the murky ocean depths will tour the world, appear on television and be kept together in a collection for posterity, expedition organisers said.

For the first time since the Titanic expedition began July 21, the French coordinators revealed this week some of their plans for recouping the multimillion-dollar cost of the high-tech salvage operation.

The expedition has been harshly criticised by people who want the "Titanic left inviolate as a memorial to the 1,513 people who drowned when the ocean liner hit an iceberg and sank on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York on April 14-15, 1912.

Expedition spokesman Robert Chappaz, chairman of the French marine company Taurus International, said the project has been unfairly portrayed as a European plundering of an American-British grave.

"All the financing is coming from North America," Chappaz

said. "The people involved have decided that as long as the expedition is at sea, they don't want to make a big show."

The only European investor is Swiss millionaire Carlos Piaget, who lives in New York. Piaget coordinated the fundraising for the group of about 20 people, registered in Britain as Ocean Research and Exploration Ltd., Chappaz said.

Other details would be revealed at a news conference Tuesday in New York, where some photos were to be released, he said.

"I feel pretty sure that the public of the United States will support this mission once we have adequately informed them," Chappaz said.

He repeated the expedition's promise that none of the artifacts would be sold. "Presently in the United States, we are discussing with lawyers establishing a trust which will control all the artifacts and make sure they remain together," he said, adding that consideration is being given to setting up one or more special museums to display Titanic objects.

Among the pieces scooped up by divers working the site 483 kilometres southwest of Newfoundland are 160 pieces of disfigure, four bottles, a purser's strongbox, seven pieces of furniture, a propeller, a chandelier and a bronze cherub that once held a light on one of the Titanic's grand staircases.

Salvage is being done by the high-tech minisubmarine Nautilie, owned by the French Institute for Research and Exploitation of the Sea. The institute was a partner with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in the 1985 expedition that discovered the Titanic.

The Nautilie is one of the few submarines capable of diving deep enough to reach the wreck, partially buried in mud 4 kilometres below the surface. The three-man sub can pick up artifacts with powerful pinchers or use gentle suction to attach breakable objects to its arms.

Robot arms place the objects in special crates that are floated from the seabottom to within a few metres of the surface, so the waves don't disturb the contents.

The crates are hauled on deck and inspected before being stored in the sea to protect the objects from possible damage from temperature and air.

On Sept. 10, when the salvaging ends, the pieces will be taken to a special conservation lab in Paris run by the national utility Electricity de France.

By far the most spectacular find occurred two weeks ago in a routine search of the stern area of the four-kilometre debris field when divers found a leather valise containing jewels, coins and bank notes.

"There are precious stones. It is beyond my wildest expectations," said John Joslyn, president of Westgate International of Hollywood, which is producing a two-hour television special on the expedition. "We were so lucky, it was like finding a needle in a haystack."

Joslyn is as enthusiastic about his television show as the discovery of the jewels. He said the show would reveal the entire Titanic carcass bathed in bright lights of special cameras developed by the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-

tration. A hologram will demonstrate the slow sinking of the doomed luxury liner, and one of the ship's staterooms will be recreated.

A live segment will include the opening of the purser's strongbox.

Joslyn said part of the cost of the expedition will be recovered by the sale of film and television rights. More revenue will be generated by selling tickets to a world tour of the artifacts that will begin next year.

The expedition so far has cost about \$2.5 million. Additional costs for conserving and restoring the objects, and producing an exhibit could bring the total price tag to \$10 million, Joslyn said.

The French daily Liberation said on Aug. 25 that the hoard of valuables brought up from the Titanic included gold coins, watches and signet rings.

Liberation said it heard of the valuables from a salvage team member on shore leave in the French territory of Saint Pierre and Miquelon, off the Newfoundland coast.



Jolting through a cloud of dust, a jackhammer's shattering staccato bangs at the cars and nerves of passers-by on a street in Washington, D.C. Sound levels in urban areas have been doubling every 10 years, exposing millions of people increasingly

damaging noises. Hearing impairment claims show a sharp upswing across the U.S. Hypertension and physiological disorders are often laid to excessive and painful noise (National Geographic photo)

Earsplitting noises harm more than ears

By Donald J. Frederick
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Silence may be golden, but mounting levels of noise pollution are making it harder and harder to find this golden treasure.

Some statistics show that environmental noise in urban areas has been doubling every 10 years. Nor are things much better in the country, where the decibel level of many farm machines has been rising higher than corn.

About nine million Americans are exposed to hazardous sound levels on the job, according to a report prepared for the Environmental Protection Agency. Millions more encounter damaging noises while walking city streets, fighting rush hours, or enduring noises from low-flying aircraft.

Billions in claims

The consequences have been costly. State and federal employees collected an estimated \$2.5 billion in hearing-impairment claims in the past 10 years. Statistics for the private sector are not available.

In Westernised countries, men lose their hearing more than women do, but the reason may not be biological. It could result from exposure to more noise in the workplace.

"At one time, people speculated that loss of hearing was just part of the aging process," says Dr. Roger Hamernik, director of the Auditory Research Laboratory at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh. "But now we're finding that many factory workers and others who have laboured in noisy environments for a number of years end up with severe hearing problems."

In Hamernik's opinion, the ear developed as an organ necessary

for survival, since survival sometimes depended upon the ability to detect such noises as the stealthy approach of a predator.

"But," observes Hamernik, "while the ear has evolved into an exquisitely sensitive instrument, it was not designed for the types of contemporary noise environments to which it is being exposed."

Noise also has been linked to brain disorders. "Our studies indicate that intense noise exposure for lengthy periods of time can alter cells in the brain stem, causing distortions in the way people hear things," says Dr. Richard J. Salvi of the Center for Communication Disorders at the University of Texas. Barely audible sounds or conversations suddenly become uncomfortably loud for people afflicted with the disorder.

Infants vulnerable

Newborns seem particularly susceptible to inner-ear damage from loud noises, and may suffer loss of brain cells as a result, according to research by Dr. Edwin W. Rubel, professor of otology at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

"We haven't figured out why newborns are so vulnerable, but we think the noise risk is heightened for at least the first few months of a baby's life," says Rubel.

He advises parents to avoid exposing their newborns to continuous loud low-frequency sounds as those emitted by unshielded jet engines or chain saws. "Certainly anything extremely annoying or painful to an adult wouldn't be advisable for a newborn child," Rubel says.

Researchers in Sweden have cautioned that noisy toys also may harm hearing. A University of Goteborg study found that

squeaky rubber squeeze toys held close to the ear emitted noises in the 108-decibel level, equivalent to the sound made by a chain saw. Some toy guns and firecrackers were much worse.

For most normal children, hearing is most acute at about age 10, and it takes about 30 to 40 years before any noticeable change occurs. Higher-pitched sounds fade first. But many people in their 70s and beyond retain the ability to hear conversation at a normal pitch.

Scientists are finding that youthful listening habits have some bearing on how well people will hear when they get old. Dr. David Lipscomb, director of noise research at the University of Tennessee, found that many young rock-music lovers preferred a noise level — just short of pain — that injures the ears of guinea pigs. In tests of college freshmen, he discovered that six out of 10 suffered hearing losses, and concluded that loud music was a factor.

Earphone levels 'outrageous'

The current stereo earphone fad seems just as bad. "The noise levels going into some ears are outrageous," says Dr. John Mills, a noise-and-hearing expert at the Medical University of South Carolina. "Most of these young people won't notice a hearing loss, but as they get older their earphone days may come back to haunt them."

Noise has been implicated in other disorders besides hearing loss. It has been linked as a contributor to coronary diseases, hypertension, physiological disorders, and emotional stress.

As Dr. Hamernik puts it, "Noise doesn't cause anxiety, but it does amplify it."

A French report blames noise for 70 per cent of the neuroses reported in the Paris area.

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Kuwait, Japan and Korea move into Asian men's handball finals

By Nermeen Murad and Rania Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — South Korea on Tuesday gained a berth in the 4th men's Asian handball finals after scoring an easy victory over China with a final score of 38:20. Kuwait and Japan also moved into the finals after knocking out Bahrain and Qatar respectively.

The South Korean team displayed a strong attack from the outset of the match scoring two goals in the span of the first minute.

Both teams used a 3:2:1 defence formation with a 3:3 on the offensive, but Korea moved swifter, using tricky passes that indicated strong coordination among its players.

In another semifinal qualifier,

Kuwait edged Bahrain in a heated game which once again showed the Kuwaiti team's cohesiveness in play and spirit.

Using a 6:0 formation on the defence interchangeably with 5:1 and 3:2:1 when faced with strong pressure from the Bahraini team, the Kuwaiti team managed to secure a remarkable triumph.

The Bahraini team relied on captain and playmaker Nabil

Taha (5) for outside shots but failed to penetrate Kuwait's strong defence.

Though the Bahraini right wing could have been a crucial element to secure an advantage for his team, the Kuwaitis managed to suppress his manoeuvring capabilities.

In the women's semi-finals earlier on Tuesday, South Korea staged a good performance and proceeded to beat Syria 37:6. The South Korean team, as expected, displayed high level skills, making effective use of their wing players.

While the Syrian team relied on two of its valuable players, floater Mayyada Nammo and playmaker Mona Kalass, they were unable to match South

Korea's collective performance in speed, fitness and skills.

In another game, China beat Japan after a heated match that stretched into four overtimes leaving Japan trailing at a score of 34:31.

The Japanese and Chinese teams played fairly similar games with almost equivalent levels of skill and fitness, seemingly in control as competition intensified.

A large and enthusiastic crowd showed up for Tuesday's games which were attended by Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawahdeh, Sheikh Fahed Al Ahmad, president of the Asian Handball Federation (AHF) also attended the men's semi-finals.



The Kuwaiti team striker attempts a shot into the goal as the Bahraini goalie bids to fend off the ball during a match played Tuesday within the 4th Men's Asian Handball Championships. Kuwait outscored Bahrain 39:18 (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)



Syria's goalie puts hand up in a bid to fend off a shot by South Korea's striker in a match played Tuesday within the First Asian Women's Championships. South Korea's team trounced the Syrians 37:6 (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

World indoor cycling record beaten 7 times

VIENNA (R) — A world indoor record which has stood for more than a quarter of a century was beaten seven times on the opening day of the World Cycling Championships Tuesday.

The drama came in the qualifiers for the men's professional sprint over 200 metres where the old record of 10.990 seconds had stood since December 1961.

But on the lightning fast track here with its steep cambers, experts had been predicting records all week and they were not disappointed.

Japan's Hitoshi Sato clocked 10.970 seconds but at the end of the session it was Claudio Golinelli of Italy who had the best time of 10.587.

The old record, set by Czechoslovakia's Oskar Plattner, has

stood so long because the distance is not contested very often by professionals and rarely on such a fast surface.

The record was a bright start to the six days of track competition, which began with qualifiers for the men's amateur sprint over 200 metres.

Defending champion Michael Huebner of East Germany set a swift 10.329 seconds but failed to match compatriot and three times former champion Lutz Henschel, who led the way with 10.232.

Commonwealth sprint champion Gary Neiwand of Australia surprised even himself by finishing fifth fastest.

Neiwand spent six months recovering from a particularly severe bout of glandular fever earlier this year and returned to

training only a month ago.

Then after just three days he collided with a car while practicing and finished up in hospital.

The injury was not serious, but having missed so much training the Australian had set his sights on next year's Olympics rather than the world championships and so was delighted with his time of 10.494 on Tuesday.

In qualifiers for the women's sprint over 200 metres, defending champion Christa Rohdenburger of East Germany recorded only the eighth best time of 12.030 seconds and has something to find on France's Isabella Gautheron, fastest in 11.572 and last year's silver medalist Erika Salumäe of the Soviet Union, second best in 11.638.

Joyner-Kersey bids for double gold in Rome

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — An exhausting seven events in two days at the World Athletics Championships starting in Rome this week will not extinguish the competitive fire inside heptathlon world record holder Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

With just one day's rest after the gruelling heptathlon, Joyner-Kersey will also go for gold in the long jump, challenging another versatile woman athlete, East German Heike Drechsler.

"The adrenalin should still be there," Joyner-Kersey promised. The confrontation with Drechsler will be their first since Joyner-Kersey, on a splendid bid jump at the Pan American

Games, equalled the East German's year-old world record of 7.45 metres. The jump improved by 20 cms Joyner-Kersey's previous best.

But Joyner-Kersey said the leap was not an attempt to send a message to her Eastern European competitors.

"If I know in my heart I'm ready to go, I don't care what the rest of the world might think," she said.

The magnificent jump literally floored her husband-coach, who fell to the ground and wept for several minutes.

"I'll never doubt her ability," said Bob Kersey, who had wanted his wife to skip the Pan

American Games to rest for the world championships.

The Long Beach, California, couple already have a target score beyond her world record of 7,158 points in mind for the Rome heptathlon — a number provided by a speeding taxi during a winter trip to New York.

The taxi had a licence plate that ended in 7230, said Joyner-Kersey.

"When I saw it, I didn't say anything, but Bobby did. 'You know what that means,'" he said. But breaking the world record is only the third of my goals for the championships," Joyner-Kersey said. "The first is to win. The second is to hit my targets for the meet."

"If the world record is there, I'll go for it."

Bayern, Monaco fall prey to 'giant killers'

LONDON (R) — Lowly F.C. Homburg and humble Niort have revealed in the newly-acquired glory of giantkillers after upsetting two of the mightiest teams in West German and French soccer — Bayern Munich and Monaco.

In a high-scoring weekend throughout Europe, Homburg's 3-2 shock win ended an unbeaten run of 10 months for West German League champions Bayern.

The Bavarians, under new trainer Jupp Heynckes, looked tired and allowed 14th-placed Homburg's Wolfgang Schaefer through their defence to score twice in the space of 11 minutes in the second half.

Cologne had a more successful day Monday, seeing the first fruit of their \$1.6 million outlay to buy back Pierre Littbarski from Racing Club Paris.

Monaco held on to the lead in France despite an unexpected 3-1 defeat on their home ground by Niort, 11th in the First Division.

The ghost of Ruud Gullit — now with A.C. Milan — was laid to rest at PSV Eindhoven who trounced Utrecht 9-0 to knock Ajax from the top of the Dutch League standings.

Gullit, who became soccer's second most expensive player — behind Diego Maradona — when he moved to Italy for \$8.5 million earlier this year, was hardly missed.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Graf pulls out of Jersey Classic

MAHWAH, New Jersey (R) — Steffi Graf, the world's number one ranked women's tennis player, has pulled out from the \$150,000 United Jersey Bank Classic, following her third dental visit in six days. Graf, who has lost only one match in 1987, withdrew after root canal surgery on Monday. The 18-year-old West German star had hoped to postpone the dental dates with an oral surgeon when she returns to her home in Bruchl after the next week's U.S. Open. "The pain was too intense and she could not even practice without pain," said her spokesman.

12 states compete in volleyball event

BAHRAIN (R) — Twelve countries, including title holders the Soviet Union and favourites South Korea and Cuba, played Tuesday in the semi-finals of the Fourth Junior Men's Volleyball Championships. Sixteen teams, divided in four groups, ended qualifying games on Monday night and organisers said 12 would compete in the semi-final round-robins. In men's championships only eight teams go to the semi-finals, "but in the junior's we want to give the young men more experience through extra exposure and matches," Zohar Ammar, the competition's technical coordinator, said.

Strong winds hold up rowing events

COPENHAGEN (R) — Strong winds gusting down the Lake Bagsvaerd course forced organisers to postpone Tuesday's heats at the World Rowing Championships. With winds blowing at between eight and 12 metres per second, it was impossible to start the heats at 0700 GMT as scheduled. Race officials later decided to try to start the heats at 1500 GMT. They plan to hold races at five minute intervals so that all scheduled events will be completed. That would mean two races on the 20,000-metre course at any given time as most events take from six to eight minutes to finish.

Yachting-Star race resumed

CHICAGO (AP) — Racing was scheduled to resume Tuesday after a lack of wind forced officials to postpone the second race in the International Star Class Yacht Championships, a spokeswoman said. Monday's scheduled race, the second of six in the six-day event, would probably be run Tuesday along with the third race, said Jane Crowley, spokeswoman for the host Chicago Yacht Club.

Australia, West Germany meet in hockey

SYDNEY (R) — World hockey champions Australia will play host to West Germany, winners of the recent Champions Trophy in Amsterdam, in a five-test series in October and November. The Australian Hockey Association (AHA) said Tuesday the tests will take place in Sydney on October 24, Canberra on October 25, Hobart on October 28, Melbourne on October 31 and Perth on November 1.



"HAT SALUTE VS. SWORD BRANDISHING": West German ace Matthias Gey in one of his bouts at the 1987 world fencing championships. The West German fencers received a "flood of medals" in the event (INP photo).



The Jordan national team

7th Arab basketball games kick off today

CAIRO (J.T.) — The Jordan national basketball team is scheduled to play against the Palestine national team on Wednesday at the start of the 7th Arab Basketball Championships which opened in Cairo on Tuesday.

The Jordanian team which was placed at the head of group "B" will also play against Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) included in the same group.

Egypt which heads group "A" will take on Iraq on the first day and will later play against Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The events will be held at the

Egyptian Military Academy sports halls and in the initial stages there will be two matches every evening.

Egyptian Television was expected to telecast live a number of the important matches.

The organisers of the championships were surprised by the arrival in Cairo on Monday evening of the Algerian female basketball players and contacts were underway with the Moroccan basketball team to sound out their readiness for a female basketball event which could also include a team from Palestine.

South Korea, Iran in possible Olympic talks

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — South Korea's sports minister has arrived in Tehran, possibly to discuss whether Iran will boycott the Seoul Olympic Games, the Islamic Republic News Agency said Tuesday.

The official, Sang-Ho Cho, arrived Monday night and was scheduled to hold talks with Iranian sports officials.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, gave no further details. But there was speculation the visit may be linked with Iran's

plans concerning next year's Olympic Games in South Korea. Communist North Korea, which is one of Iran's main arms suppliers in the nearly 7-year-old Iran-Iraq war, has threatened to boycott the games.

Because of the war, Iran avoids participating in any sports meetings where Iraq is also represented.

The South Korean minister might be scolding out Iranian officials on their stand should North Korea boycott the Olympics and if Iraq participates.

Durie struggles to advance in Jersey Classic 1st round

MAHWAH, N.J. (R) — Britain's Jo Durie struggled to win while eighth-seeded Raffaella Reggi of Italy had an easy time advancing in opening-round matches Monday at \$150,000 Jersey Classic Women's Tennis Tournament.

Durie scored service breaks in the final games of each set to edge Rosalyn Fairbank of South Africa, 7-5, 6-4.

"It took me a while to get into the match," said Durie, who won this tournament in 1983 by beating Hana Mandlikova.

"When you don't play so well but you still win it's a good sign. I was able to stay with her in the rallies."

Reggi, ranked 18th, needed only 55 minutes to oust Time

Scheuer-Larsen of Denmark 6-1, 6-2.

"I'm working on a new serve with my coach Jose Higuera," said the 22-year-old Reggi, the 1985 Italian Open champion.

"I figure that I was able to get to number 18 with my old serve and I hope that I can get much higher in the ranking as I learn to serve better."

Dianne Balesstrat of Australia rallied for a 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 win over Hu Na, who made her professional debut in 1983 at this tournament after defecting from China to the United States.

The 31-year-old Balesstrat never trailed in the final set after breaking serve in the opening game.

Australian cyclist sets world best mark in individual pursuit

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Australian Dean Woods Tuesday set a world record in qualifying heats for the amateurs 4,000-metre individual pursuit race at the World Cycling Championships, beating reigning Soviet world champion Viacheslav Yekimov.

Woods was timed in 4 minutes and 27.11 seconds, while Yekimov clocked 4:27.65 and

Quintausas Umaras, another Soviet, was third best with a time of 4:28.54.

Italian Claudio Golinelli set another world record in a preliminary run for the professionals' sprint with a time of 10.587 seconds, bettering the 26-year-old record held by Switzerland's Oskar Plattner (10.99).

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CONCORD
SECRET ADMIRER
Performances 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 625153
RAINBOW
LETHAL WEAPON
Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675573
OPERA
RUTHLESS PEOPLE
Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675571
PLAZA
BEY THE DOOR KEEPER
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 622198
RAGHADAN
BLOOD DEBTS
Performances 12:15, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6235/45	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3180/85	Canadian dollar
	1.8200/05	West German marks
	2.0520/30	Dutch guilders
	1.5005/15	Swiss francs
	37.83/88	Belgian francs
	6.0910/40	French francs
	1319/1320	Italian lira
	142.60/70	Japanese yen
	6.5825/75	Swedish crowns
	6.7100/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.0075/0125	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	458.70/459.20	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equity prices continued Tuesday morning's advance during the afternoon session, on the back of a sharp early rise on Wall Street where futures-related programme buying helped push the Dow Jones average up 20 points, dealers said.

The advance followed a cautious opening but dealers said there was definitely a feeling in the market that the recent downward correction may now be over.

However, they warned that volume was still light and Tuesday's gains will easily be eroded if any bad news on the U.K. economic front emerges. The FTSE 100 share index at 1430 GMT stood 21.4 points up at 2,346.5 after 2,220.9 at the outset.

The cautious opening reflected Monday night's lower performance on both the New York and Tokyo stock markets as well as funding worries ahead of the forthcoming U.K. government sale of its remaining stake in British Petroleum.

Dealers said the BP share sale was to some extent discounted and many investors had already reserved funds for the flotation during the market's recent downturn.

However, the sale is the largest ever by the government, around £7.5 billion, and it is perhaps too early to tell just how the wider market will be affected, they added.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This evening would be a fine time to get together with an associate whose actions you do not understand. Discuss what can be done to eliminate confusion.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study any problems which crop up so that you'll understand the underlying sources of these matters.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be cautious in any evening work if you want to avoid damage of some sort. Plan less expensive recreations.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Don't permit an outsider to talk you into something this evening which seems foolish, because it is.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be very succinct in any messages you send out today, and you'll avoid a costly misunderstanding.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A visit you've been planning for today is best postponed for a while. Attend to problems with business affairs.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) This is certainly not a day for social pleasures. Instead, attend to business and improve the outline of your budget.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Try not to confide any personal information in newcomers who you know nothing about. Avoid confusion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't allow your feelings to be hurt by constructive criticism from a good friend. Use it to your advantage.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Handle public or credit affairs very carefully. Be quite cautious that you don't offend anyone today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Take it easy tonight and get some rest. Listen to suggestions from those who have been successful in the past.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be sure to keep any promises you have made honorably. Study the details of a new venture which is confusing.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be sure that you don't do anything which will make your mate feel as if you're taking advantage of him or her.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will choose a profession which will require precision, cleanliness, order, etc. Your son or daughter will have a high degree of morality which should be tempered with mercy and kindness when dealing with others. A fascinating progeny, and one to be proud of.

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine

ACROSS

1. Metal
2. Ratings
3. Golfed and others
4. Harbor
5. Victory
6. Colored relative
7. Ogle
8. Area port
9. Home for
10. Fights
11. Spring
12. Compensation's
13. With
14. Ball elevators
15. Room
16. New ready
17. Response
18. Sub
19. Turner
20. Cassette
21. Reader
22. Opportunistic
23. Jungle beast
24. Out of control
25. Solicit
26. Vapor
27. Barber wolf
28. Single bills
29. — Also
30. — docking
31. Enclosure
32. Store
33. Moroccan
34. Robert
35. Paper tube
36. Id. Inst.
37. Other
38. Catch
39. Past
40. Pub
41. Degree

DOWN

1. Sheep
2. Cheesecake
3. Saver: pret.
4. Urnship
5. Hazards
6. Movement
7. Baking vessels
8. Boat
9. Irritable
10. — Blac
11. Jump
12. Pond
13. Winged
14. Confines
15. Farm site
16. Ranch rope
17. Fast-food
18. Rams
19. Pass a law
20. Leader
21. Chocolate
22. source
23. Hickory
24. relative
25. Eliminate
26. Statues
27. Becket or
28. Kamps
29. Underling
30. Monocase
31. Waylaid
32. Unfrequented
33. "The world's mine"
34. Preferred
35. Ranch rope
36. Self-satisfied
37. Persian Gulf
38. Pitowac
39. Southern letters

Senior Soviet economist calls for radical reform, even if unpopular

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A senior government economist on Tuesday called for a heavy cut in government subsidies and radical changes in the way prices are fixed, but also acknowledged that such drastic reforms could be unpopular.

The current price-setting system is out of step with Soviet Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev's efforts to revitalize the sluggish economy, Mr. Valentin Pavlov, chairman of the agency responsible for price setting, said in an interview with the daily Pravda.

The Soviet Union has based its economic system on heavily subsidising goods and services to ensure a low and stable price and guaranteeing a job for everyone.

But critics have argued this leads to low worker productivity and results in sometimes shoddy Soviet goods that are not competitive in the international market.

Since coming to power in March 1985, Mr. Gorbachev has called for "perestroika," or restructuring to modernise the Soviet Union's economy.

Mr. Pavlov acknowledged the possible unpopularity of a government that demands greater worker productivity while cutting subsidies, which is likely to result in price hikes.

He noted the government faced a political, as well as an economic, challenge in deciding on the method of reform. He said workers must be compensated by higher pay and pensions, Pravda reported.

The Pavlov interview appeared a day after the Soviet Union ran a nine-page advertising supplement in the Wall Street Journal urging Americans to do business in the Soviet Union.

The special Soviet section, complete with ads for Russian financial institutions, jewels, furs and musical instruments, was aimed at increasing foreign trade.

The supplement touting business opportunities in the Soviet Union was done in the style of similar advertisements run by other countries and groups seeking U.S. trade or investment, said Managing Director Daniel Cates of Dow Jones International Marketing Services.

Dow Jones Co. Inc. publishes the journal, which is the world's most popular business newspaper, and a prime tool in keeping up with capitalist doings for Wall Street traders and businessmen across the nation.

The Soviets paid about \$300,000 for the section, which was suggested by representatives of the newspaper, Mr. Cates said.

It ran in about 925,000 papers distributed in the eastern United States, Europe and Asia.

"There is a psychological reason for these special sections. A lot of countries feel they are not well understood in the United States," Mr. Cates said.

A photograph of Mr. Gorbachev was atop the first page of the section, which contained articles written by Soviets.

Mr. Cates said the journal normally hires freelance journalists to write the copy, but the Soviets handled their supplement themselves.

Mr. V. Malkevich, first deputy minister of foreign trade of the USSR, in a letter to readers, wrote: "The purpose of this supplement, as we see it, is to help improve contacts between business circles of our two countries, which in turn would promote a rapprochement between our two nations."

One article discussed how economic reform would make trade with foreign businesses easier, while other stories focused on joint ventures with Western companies and the prospects for cooperation with U.S. banks.

Other stories discussed Russian advancements in science, medicine, technology, exports and tourism.

Aquino reverses fuel price hike

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Corason Aquino howed to public pressure Tuesday and partially reversed a fuel price increase but leftist union leaders said a general strike threatened for Wednesday would go on.

In a live television broadcast, Mrs. Aquino said she had cut import taxes on fuel oil to 15 percent from 20 percent, which would effectively halve the increase announced on Aug. 14.

International projections of stable or lower crude-oil prices now suggested prices would not continue to rise to the extent that had been feared, she said.

"I appeal to all our people to at least understand our situation," she said.

The appeal was immediately rejected by union leader, Mr. Crispin Beltran, who said on radio the partial reduction was

not enough.

"We will go on with the strike," he declared.

Mr. Beltran is president of the May 1 Movement (KMU), the country's biggest leftist union, which has vowed to bring two million people onto the streets Wednesday.

Mrs. Aquino's statement followed days of tough talk by her government, which vowed that it would not be moved by mounting pressure. Analysts said the pressure was the most serious public threat her government had faced.

The military was on full alert in Manila and other cities against possible violence and said it would deploy soldiers in key areas of the capital to protect workers refusing to join the strike.

Buses would be given armed escorts, it said.

Manila authorities said they planned to put 400 vehicles onto the streets of the capital, many of them garbage trucks, to help ferry commuters.

Mrs. Aquino said the tax cut would cost the Philippine about \$83 million in lost revenues.

"We will have to find other ways to make up for this loss," she said.

The KMU said Wednesday's protest would include transport and factory strikes, walkouts from schools and government offices, rallies and marches. It claimed more than two million people would join, including 40,000 civil servants.

KMU claims 650,000 members across the country but independent sources put its actual strength at a third of that.

"It is high time we gave this government a lesson," a spokesman said.

Oman seeks \$100m credit

BAHRAIN (R) — The Sultanate of Oman, recovering after last year's oil price slump opened up a large budget gap, is raising \$100 million on international capital markets.

A spokesman for Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank (GIB) said Oman's ministry of finance had commissioned it to arrange a Euro-commercial paper programme to raise the funds.

It is non-OPEC Oman's first major borrowing this year and the first time it has opted for a commercial paper programme which will be offered to investors in the Middle East, Far East and Europe.

GIB has already set up similar programmes for itself and the regional airline Gulf Air.

Oman's foray into the Euro-

markets was not entirely unexpected, but it had made clear at the start of the year that it would not seek a traditional credit in 1987.

It has built up foreign debt estimated by bankers at about \$2.5 billion and borrowed \$500 million last year in an eight-year credit to help to bridge a \$1.8 billion 1986 budget deficit.

Although not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Oman is heavily dependent on oil income to finance its day-to-day expenditure and development.

The 1987 budget shortfall is officially projected to narrow to the equivalent of about \$715 million as the benefit of higher world oil prices works through to the economy.

Income, spending increase in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — The personal income of Americans rose 0.4 percent in July, while spending jumped 0.9 percent, indicating consumers are continuing to contribute to economic growth, the Commerce Department said Monday.

The spending increase was the largest since a 2.3 percent rise in February. Personal income in July rose \$14.3 billion to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$3.73 trillion, the department said. Spending rose \$25.6 billion to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$2.99 trillion, it said.

The July rise in personal income followed a 0.3 percent gain in June, the Commerce Department said.

Sweden, S. Arabia sign deal for underground oil storage

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden said Tuesday it had signed an agreement to help Saudi Arabia carve from solid rock a vast network of underground storage tanks designed to guarantee vital oil exports in case of escalation in the Gulf crisis.

The foreign ministry said the technical cooperation pact was signed in Jeddah by the Saudi government and two Swedish bodies, the Board for Fortifications and the Civil Defence Board.

"Swedish state experts would assist the Saudi authorities in the development and construction of a vast underground storage programme being planned by the Saudi government," said Industry Minister Thage Petersen.

The deal paves the way for two Swedish construction firms, ABV A.B. and Skanska A.B., to try to net a 25 billion crown (\$3.9 billion) contract for the project.

If the two firms won the entire

order for the project, which involves building tanks near the Red Sea far from the kingdom's Gulf oil fields, it would be Sweden's biggest export contract and could be paid for in Saudi crude oil over a period of years.

"This gives us the go-ahead to start negotiations with the Saudis within a few days' time," said Mr. Lennart Hallberg, a spokesman for ABV A.B., which along with Skanska A.B., has been negotiating for the contract for several years.

Skanska and ABV have built a reputation for expertise in boring through hard rock to create underground storage deposits for strategic materials in Scandi-

navia. Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan has been a prime mover behind the storage project, Saudi Arabia and its five Gulf Cooperation Council partners, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain, have been discussing an oil storage policy to guarantee supplies in emergencies.

ABV and Skanska have formed a joint company, the ABV Rock Group, to handle the deal. Last week the group said it expected negotiations on the first stage of the project will begin within the next few months.

Mr. Hallberg said the first stage will be worth between one and two billion crowns (\$156 to 312 million). It would consist of building roads and camps, drawing up projects and a major geotechnical research programme, ABV Rock said.

Governments brake dollar slide

LONDON (R) — Japan acted again Tuesday to brake the latest slide in the value of the dollar, and succeeded in keeping it above its recent lows.

West Germany weighed in, too.

Market intervention Monday by the Bank of Japan, and word Tuesday from Tokyo officials that the central bank would aggressively buy dollars again if necessary, were followed by a statement by West German Economics Minister Martin Bangemann.

"The dollar should stabilise in a range of 1.80 to two marks," Mr. Bangemann told a news conference in Bonn.

Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told parliament in Tokyo: "Too wild fluctuations in the exchange rate will not be tolerable to us."

The dollar, after ending in New York Monday night just below 142 yen and 1.82 marks, then rallied a little, and by the middle of Europe's trading day was trading between 142.70 and 143 yen and around 1.8225 marks.

Many dealers, and economists, think it has to go lower to correct the huge trade deficit being run

by the United States. News on Aug. 14 that the June trade gap widened to \$15.7 billion started the dollar's latest fall — it is down since then from 151 yen and 1.89 marks.

Dealers, however, afraid of central bank intervention to buy dollars and send the price up, are wary of going short.

Mr. Miyazawa last week had helped the dollar down, with comments that suggested he was willing to leave its fate to the market.

Gold eased slightly in line with the stronger dollar. It was fixed in London Tuesday morning at \$458.50 an ounce, down \$1 on Monday afternoon.

Lower North Sea oil prices and discontent among Britain's coalminers hit sterling. The pound was Tuesday morning down a pfennig against the Deutsche mark at 2.9584 marks.

But London's stock market continued a rebound and by late morning the Financial Times Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares was up 17 at 2,242 points.

The dollar's weakness depressed Tokyo stocks Tuesday and Wall Street Monday night,

however — Tokyo because a strong yen crimps profits on Japanese exports and Wall Street because a falling dollar could boost U.S. inflation by forcing up import costs.

The Tokyo 225-share market index lost 110.94 points to 25,643.39.

"Investors are uncertain about the near-term direction of dollar-yen rates, which is keeping them out of the market," said Mr. Hiroyuki Wada, senior analyst at Okasan Securities Co.

Trade was also sparse because Thursday is the last day of trading for August account settlement, Mr. Wada said.

"After Thursday, the market is likely to try for a new high as it is mustering energy to break the record high of 25,929.42 on June 17," he added.

Mr. Ken Nakamichi, a broker at Morgan Stanley Securities Co., said: "If the dollar-yen exchange rate is stabilised, it would give clearer direction to stock investors and bolster market confidence."

On Wall Street, after last week's hectic surge above 2,700, the Dow Jones industrial average Monday night ended down 12 at 2,697.

Japanese panel urges new strategies

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's trade bureaucrats told their big export companies Tuesday that they must give up the business strategies they have used for 40 years to dominate many world markets or be forced to do so.

A special advisory group to the ministry of international trade and industry said companies must abandon their traditional strategy of winning market share at any cost and concentrate on making real profits.

Japanese companies have tended to undercut foreign competition, and even each other, in their scramble to sell more goods to more people in more markets, often at the expense of turning a

viable profit.

"If excessive competition... abroad is left unchecked, it will not only have a major impact on the economic society of foreign countries, but by intensifying trade friction, will have a harmful impact on the entire Japanese economy," said the panel.

"Management must change from a tendency to emphasise market share... to an emphasis on profits by increasing the value-added component of products and developing new fields," it said.

The advice from such panels in Japan is often closely followed in future policy.

The report focussed on six major export industries, cars, computer microchips, copiers, telecommunications equipment, machine tools and video tape recorders.

Meanwhile, officials said that Monday the Japanese government will sharply boost its spending on research in superconductivity next year.

A report on superconductivity released by the ministry of international trade and industry (MITI) said national research laboratories and universities are likely to continue to lead Japanese research in the technology.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



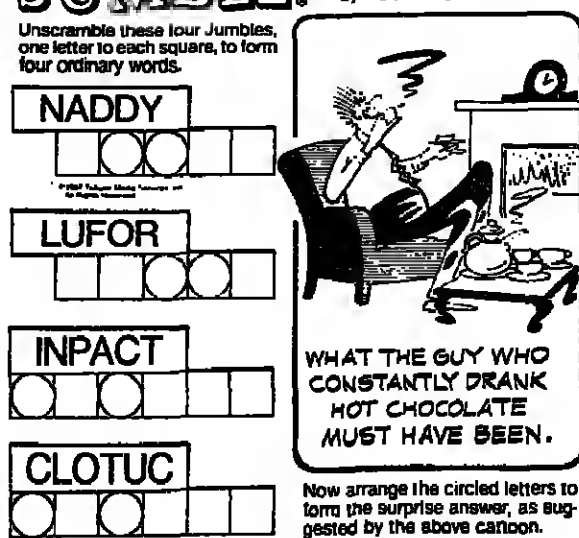
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A "JUMBLE" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: POSE SUITE HUNTER GHETTO

Answer: Sometimes the real hero of the movie is the one who does this—SITS THROUGH IT

Pentagon defends MX after critical report

WASHINGTON (AP) — The air force is calling the MX "the best missile system ever" in defending the nuclear weapon against a critical report written by a House committee controlled by opposition Democrats.

"We have a reliable and accurate missile," said Brig. Gen. Charles May Jr., deputy director of advanced programmes for the air force.

Brig. May held a news conference Monday to reply to a report issued over the weekend by the House Armed Services Committee.

"Instead of being complimented for the best missile system ever developed in the history of the United States, we're being criticised for not being perfect," Brig. May said. "We believe the conclusions in the committee's statement are erroneous and a public statement is required to set the record straight."

Representatives Les Aspin, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, was out of Washington when the report was issued and a spokesman in his office said Mr. Aspin had no plans for an immediate response.

Mr. Aspin issued the report in the midst of a month-long congressional summer recess.

"There are no defects in the

"Peacekeeper" system that justify a giant question mark on the missile's capability," said Brig. May, using the military's preferred name for the 10-warhead nuclear weapon.

At hearings on the MX held earlier in the summer by two armed services subcommittees, Mr. Aspin and other critics attacked the weapon and air force officials defended it.

The dispute involves the guidance system that directs the missile to its targets.

Mr. Aspin and the committee say the system is not as accurate as it could be, but Brig. May said the guidance system is far more accurate than had been expected when the weapon was first built.

The accuracy of nuclear-tipped missiles is measured by the so-called circular error probable, or CEP. The CEP number is the radius of the circle in which 50 per cent of a weapon's warheads are supposed to land.

The exact figure for the MX is determined by the air force and is classified.

Of the 17 test flights thus far,

82 per cent of the warheads have fallen "within the 50 per cent CEP circle, which is 32 per cent better than the requirement," Brig. May said.

"This is an A-plus using anyone's calculations," he said, referring to Mr. Aspin's statement that the weapon's accuracy should be graded a "D."

Thus far, the air force has completed 17 of the 20 planned tests. A dozen involved guidance systems built for test purposes, while the other five used slightly different production models.

Brig. May admitted the five production-model shots were not as accurate as those with the test models, but said the figures are still better than expected. "No matter how you cut the data, the accuracy of this system is better than specifications," he said.

The air force plans to conduct the final three tests later than it had originally scheduled, but that is not because of problems in the system, Brig. May said.

Congress cut the number of test MX missiles the air force was allowed to buy, so the service decided to stretch out the test program, he said.

The first MX weapons already have been installed in silos in Wyoming, Brig. May said, and the rest will be ready by the December 1988 deadline.

U.S. blames Managua for blast outside envoy's house

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — The U.S. embassy claims Sandinista soldiers exploded a bomb over the weekend outside a vacant house where an American diplomat had been living, causing minor damage.

"There were soldiers, including officers," embassy spokesman Alberto Fernandez said about the 25 to 30 men who placed the explosive device Saturday morning. "We are talking about armed soldiers. ... There is no doubt they were Sandinista military."

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said the United States viewed the action as "outrageous."

Mr. Fernandez said the house was leased by the embassy and was occupied until a few days before the explosion by an American whom he would describe only as a diplomat. The house is about 11 kilometres south of Managua in a neighbourhood of U.S. diplomatic personnel.

Mr. Fernandez quoted a guard at the house who witnessed the incident as saying about 25 to 30 soldiers walked up to a fence surrounding the property and placed two explosive devices, stood back and watched as one exploded and the other did not.

The soldiers, shouting anti-U.S. slogans, retrieved the unexploded device and left, Fernandez said. He said there were no injuries and described the damage as "minor."

Duarte meets Nicaraguan political opposition

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte met leaders of Nicaragua's political opposition as part of his efforts to push forward a five-nation Central American peace plan.

Government officials said Mr. Duarte, who last week met leaders of the armed Nicaraguan opposition, known as contras, had invited the Nicaraguan opposition to Monday's talks.

Government sources said that among those he met were the president and vice-president of the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinator, an umbrella group for conservative Nicaraguan parties opposed to the ruling Sandinistas.

Also present was Gilberto Cuadra, representing private enterprise in Nicaragua, they added.

Mr. Duarte, who along with four other Central American presidents signed a peace-seeking accord in Guatemala City on Aug. 7, has since been a driving force in trying to make concrete progress over the plan.

Key points of the plan are proposed ceasefires in the guerrilla wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua, and democratic reforms and reconciliation with unarmed opposition groups in all countries, notably Nicaragua.

Mr. Duarte has proposed simultaneous talks in mid-September between his government and leftist Salvadorean guerrillas, and between the Sandinistas and rebels in Nicaragua.



Cecilia Cichan, with her brother, David

Report: Crew of Detroit crash disconnected alarm

DETROIT (AP) — The crew of Northwest Flight 255 had disconnected an alarm meant to indicate problems with the airplane's takeoff gear, a Detroit television station has reported.

The plane's cockpit voice recorder has shown no evidence that the alarm sounded before flight 255 took off Aug. 16 from Detroit Metropolitan Airport. The plane crashed just after takeoff in the second-worst U.S. airplane disaster.

The alarm normally would go off when the airplane's wing flaps are not in takeoff position and should be.

A preliminary check of the plane's flight data recorder indicated that the wing flaps were not extended before takeoff, but that is not conclusive, investigators said. Flaps usually are extended to provide additional lift at low airspeeds during takeoff and landing.

The alarm aboard Flight 255 sounded earlier Aug. 16 after the plane arrived in Detroit from Saginaw when the crew shut down one engine to conserve fuel while taxiing, an unidentified investigator told WJBK-TV.

"The crew disabled the alarm system, which also monitors the wing flaps, by disconnecting a circuit breaker, the station reported."

"The circuit breaker was pulled," the investigator told WJBK. "We know that for a fact."

"Nothing has been said by the NTSB about the circuit breaker

being pulled or not pulled," agency spokeswoman Drucella Anderson said later Monday. "Obviously, that's something that we're looking into."

Anderson reiterated NTSB claims that the only information available so far about the flaps' position prior to takeoff was contained in the preliminary readings from the flight data recorder and that the information had yet to be backed up by other data.

Most federal investigators had left Detroit by Monday and were analysing the wreckage to try to determine the cause of the crash. Alan Pollock, another NTSB spokesman, said from Washington, D.C.

A damaged wing flap actuator was found in debris Sunday, and investigators hoped to learn from that piece whether the plane's wing flaps were extended or retracted.

On Monday, motorists stopped along the crash site to lay wreaths nearby and gifts continued to pour in for the lone survivor, 4-year-old Cecilia Cichan.

After several days of identifying the victims' charred and dismembered remains, the official death toll stood at 156, Wayne County Medical Examiner Werner Spitz said Monday.

Two motorists were killed when the jet crashed and slid under three vehicles, spraying fiery wreckage and carnage near an Interstate Highway 94 interchange.

Students burn government cars in Panama

PANAMA CITY (R) — Riot police bave sealed off entrances to Panama University after students set ablaze four government cars and erected barriers along a street outside the campus.

It was the second time in four days police have moved against the students, who are affiliated with the opposition National Civic Crusade calling for the ouster of Panama's military strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The students had blocked off the Via Batista running past the campus with barricades, burning tires and bonfires. They also commandeered and torched four cars belonging to state agencies or utilities.

Riot police fired a few rounds of teargas and birdshot and closed the university's Via Batista gates.

People in nearby apartment buildings banged pots, pans and balcony railings in support of the students.

The government has made students the main target of a crackdown since a wave of protests against Gen. Noriega began in early June.

Last Thursday, dozens were injured and a number arrested in a confrontation along Via Batista between stone-throwing students and police firing volleys of birdshot and teargas.

U.S. Marine guard gets 30 years for spying

WASHINGTON (R) — A military court has sentenced Marine Sergeant Clayton Lonetree to 30 years in prison for trading secrets for sex during the two years he guarded U.S. embassies in Moscow and Vienna.

After nearly three hours of deliberations, a jury of eight Marine officers announced the 30-year jail term and said Lonetree would also be fined \$5,000, demoted to the rank of private and given a dishonourable discharge.

The sentence was a surprise to Lonetree's lawyers who had expected the harshest punishment — life in prison — for the first Marine convicted of espionage in the more than 200-year history of the corps.

The 25-year-old Marine, an American Indian, was found guilty last Friday on 13 counts of spying for the Soviet Union during his two years guarding the Moscow and Vienna embassies. In four hours of final arguments before the jury began its deliberations, Major Frank Short, one of the prosecuting attorneys, argued for life in prison, saying: "That's a sentence that fits this crime. That's a sentence that fits this criminal."

Short urged the jury of Marine

officers to "set an example for another 212 years so that this doesn't happen again."

But defence lawyers pleaded for mercy, saying Lonetree would bear the scars of the sex scandal for the rest of his life.

"He himself was a pawn and a scapegoat," said lawyer Michael Struhf. "What do you achieve by being unduly harsh?"

There was no immediate com-

Sri Lanka appeals for foreign aid to rebuild war-torn regions

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan government appealed Tuesday for overseas aid to rebuild regions ravaged by its four-year war against Tamil separatist guerrillas.

Finance Minister Ronnie De Mel said he asked for help when he met ambassadors and representatives of 16 countries and institutions making up the Sri Lanka Aid Group.

"The general response to my appeal was extremely favourable," he told reporters after the meeting.

He said the rebuilding programme would cover northern and eastern areas devastated during the fighting with Tamil rebels seeking an independent state.

It would also cover southern areas, where rioting crowds damaged property last month in protest against the agreement signed by Colombo and New Delhi to end the war.

Mr. De Mel had earlier estimated damage in the north and east alone at more than \$315 million.

The minister said he would also meet envoys of Socialist countries and members of the Non-Aligned Movement on Thursday to seek help.

He said the World Bank had responded favourably to a request for a special meeting of the aid group as soon as possible to pledge aid for the government's rebuilding and rehabilitation programme.

A World Bank mission would arrive on Sept. 1 to assess the damage and help prepare a report for the proposed special meeting.

Mr. De Mel said an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team would arrive on Sept. 7 to look into the "macro-economic implications" of the programme.

Colombo hoped the report would be ready in time to hold the special aid group meeting immediately after the annual meetings of the World Bank and IMF in early October in Washington.

"I emphasised to the ambassadors that speed is the essence of the whole operation and that it is extremely important that the special aid group meeting be held as early as possible to capitalise on the fund of international goodwill that the peace accord has generated," Mr. De Mel said.

"I feel that early reconstruction and rehabilitation of affected areas will bring about reconciliation among various ethnic groups," he added.

The aid group normally meets every year in Paris to pledge help for projects in Sri Lanka.

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Prince plays prince in Shakespeare role

ABERDEEN, Scotland (AP) — Stage-struck Prince Edward falls in love with a shepherdess in his latest acting role, as Prince Florizel in Shakespeare's play the Winter's Tale. The 23-year-old youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II has been rehearsing this week at Haddo House, home of the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair near the eastern Scottish port city of Aberdeen. The play opens at Haddo House on Wednesday for a four-night run. The shepherdess in Hannah Welfare, a 17-year-old student at Scotland's Glasgow University and a granddaughter of the Marchioness. She said: "To me it's no different from acting with anyone else. I don't care who I act with as long as they can act. I think Prince Edward is a very good actor. 'He's a nice guy but there's going to be no ardent, passionate love scene... I'm just a shy girl. We hug, but we don't kiss.' Haddo House players, all amateurs, are staging the Winter's Tale to mark the 25th anniversary of the Haddo Shakespeare Stage, a replica of the stage in the original Globe Theatre of Shakespeare's day in London. Artistic director Mr. Charles Barron said he expected big audiences. "Prince Edward is a box-office draw," he said. Prince Edward, who resigned his Royal Marines Commission in January, is an enthusiastic amateur actor.

Head lice a problem for centuries

TEL AVIV (R) — Scientists said Tuesday they had found head lice in the combs of Jewish warriors who fought the Romans 18 centuries ago. Long-haired lice and their eggs were found by Hebrew University researcher workers on combs from the first and second centuries unearthed in desert caves. Some of the combs were uncovered by archaeologists in caves of rebels who fought under the Jewish warrior Bar-Kokhba against Roman soldiers in the years 132 to 135.

Greedy officials close successful business

PEKING (R) — A nationally-acclaimed Chinese entrepreneur has been forced to close his liquor business because local officials elected him, the China Daily said Tuesday. Communist Party officials, local government leaders and a military chief descended on He Keren's booming distillery in South West China to demand free drink and cash loans totalling 200,000 yuan (\$55,000), the paper said. The businessman, named a "model entrepreneur" by a national body earlier this year, could not pay his workers for four months and in June stopped production at his two million yuan (\$550,000) plant, it said. The newspaper said the entrepreneur had donated money to local schools, helped local road-building projects and bought fertilizer for poor farmers in Gulin county. "To some local people, he was a source of money... most of those who fled him were local government and party leaders." One local militia leader took drink worth 55,000 yuan (\$14,000) from his plant in 1985 and threatened workers who came to demand repayment with a gun, it said. He Keren, one of millions of peasants who have gone into private business under China's market-oriented economic reforms, was quoted as saying: "There are so many bosses, and to survive we dare not offend any of them. I don't want to swallow the wrongs any more. I have to fight back. Now I have to tell my entire story."

Chinese scientists to sell findings

PEKING (AP) — Chinese scientists soon will have the right to sell research findings or be reimbursed for profits made by institutes selling their discoveries, an official daily said Tuesday. The China Daily said the technical contract law, to go into effect on Nov. 1, will require payment for technical research, patent transfers, consultancy and services. It said the law is an important effort to reform the existing state-funded research system, whose findings are free to use by anyone. The law stipulates that technical contracts can be signed between corporations or individuals for paid research, transfer, consultancy or services. Research institutes that transfer scientific inventions or know-how derived from the work of their employees must reward the employees according to the profits of the sales, it said. Individual scientists can sign technical contracts and be paid for the use of their findings.

Gay group calls off talks with church

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Homosexual activists planning demonstrations during Pope John Paul II's September visit here have said they had cut off talks with the Catholic Church on a pledge of non-violence. But John Wahl, head of a group calling itself the Papal Visit Task Force, which plans several protests during the Pope's Sept. 17-18 visit, said the group still condemns any violence during the demonstrations. He said the group, which opposes the church's stand against homosexuality, would not continue discussions with the Archdiocese of San Francisco aimed at preventing violence. Members of San Francisco's homosexual community are upset by a Vatican statement last October that characterised homosexuality as a disorder and an "intrinsic moral evil." Wahl accused church representatives of leaking a statement that made it appear as though the protesters had agreed to a peace pact. "There was never any peace pact. We have never made any peace with the Pope or the archdiocese," he said. "We don't want any violence, but that's a very different thing from a peace pact." The papal visit task force has called for three separate demonstrations while the Pope is here during his Sept. 10-19 tour of the United States. One is expected to draw some 5,000 gay and lesbian protesters while the Pope prays at Mission Dolores with an audience that will include several dozen people with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Man gets 10 years for tax evasion

MANILA (R) — A man who became a millionaire after a bank payment error 10 years ago has been sentenced to six years in jail for not paying taxes, the state-owned Philippine News Agency said Tuesday. It said a Manila court convicted Melehor Javier for not declaring his windfall when he paid his income tax the following year. Javier became a rich man when the Mellon Bank of the United States transmitted \$1,000 to Javier's wife through the Manila-based Prudential Bank and Trust Company in May 1977. The local bank paid the couple \$1 million by mistake. The Javiers had gone into hiding and could not be found, the agency said.

Trash load finally towed to incinerator

NEW YORK (AP) — The infamous bargeload of garbage that has been a running joke for five months made its final voyage to the south west Brooklyn incinerator of Gravesend Bay in New York Harbour. The barge was pushed 9,600 kilometres between late March and mid-May in a fruitless search for a dumpsite. The 210-foot-long (65-metre) barge, the Mobro 4000, was turned away from six American states and three countries after leaving the city on March 22. On Monday it was towed to the incinerator. The 3,186 tons of baled trash, which originated in New York City and Islip, a nearby town on Long Island, was to be unloaded and examined for recycling or burning, the City Sanitation Department said.

Over 10,000 in Colombia have AIDS

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia is stricken with 10,000 to 20,000 carriers of the deadly AIDS virus and over 200 full-blown cases, the country's top medical authority told a weekend seminar. This figure of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) carriers is more than 100 times the figure the Health Ministry has reported. Health Ministry sources recently said 100 people were thought suffering from AIDS. Only 42 cases were confirmed. Pablo Gomez Martinez, president of the National Medicine Academy, told the National Seminar on AIDS that there were more than previously thought.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
1986 "Round Table" Series, Inc.

FIND THAT ENTRY!

Both vulnerable. East deals.
NORTH
♠ 10 8 4 2
♦ Q 7 6
♥ 9
♣ 10 7 5
WEST
♠ J 6
♦ 10 8 3
♥ J 8 2
♣ Q 10 4 2
SOUTH
♠ K 9 7 5 3
♦ K 2
♥ 10 4 3
♣ A K 6
The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♠

We are not overly fond of partners who do out of their way to lead some other suit when we have indicated a lead by bidding a suit. But we find it very difficult to fault them when they have found the only lead to give us a chance to defeat the contract!

After his partner's one spade overcall, North's leap to four spades was more out of fear that the opponents had a minor-suit game than that his side could make ten tricks. He was wrong on both counts.

For reasons best known to him-

self, West chose to ignore his partner's suit and lead the queen of clubs. Declarer was in hand and led a trump to the queen and ace. Back came another club, won in the closed hand. Now declarer drew the last trump and then tried the king of hearts. East took his ace and found the only way to reach his partner's hand—he underled his A-K-Q of diamonds. West took his two minor-suit tricks to defeat the contract one trick.

While we congratulate the defenders on an excellent performance, declarer did not make the most of his assets. East surely had all the aces because West, who was marked with the queen-jack of clubs from the lead, probably would have taken some action if he had an ace in the bargain. If clubs were 4-3, the contract was probably going down no matter what declarer did. Therefore, he had to hope that clubs were 5-2.

The only suit in which West might gain the lead was diamonds. Therefore, declarer should have returned a diamond at trick two to cut communications between the defenders. The "scissors coup" would have done the trick.

Note that it is futile to lead the king of hearts at trick two. Since dummy has no fast entry, declarer would not be able to get a discard on that suit as long as the defenders hold up the ace for one round.